1914

c 119 Devolution of Estates Act

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2. INTESTATE SUCCESSION.

CHAPTER 119.

An Act respecting the Devolution and Distribution of Estates.

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as The Devolution of Estates Act, short title, 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 1.

2. In this Act,

(a) "Lunatic" shall include an idiot and a person of unsound mind.

(b) "Personal representative" shall mean and include an executor, an administrator, and an administrator with the will annexed. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 2.

3.—(1) All real and personal property which is vested in any person without a right in any other person to take by survivorship shall, on his death, whether testate or intestate, and notwithstanding any testamentary disposition, devolve to and become vested in his personal representative from time to time as trustee for the persons by law beneficially entitled thereto and, subject to the payment of his debts, and so far as such property is not disposed of by deed, will, contract or other effectual disposition, the same shall be administered, dealt with and distributed as if it were personal property not so disposed of.

(2) This section shall apply to property over which a person executes by will a general power of appointment as if it were property vested in him.

(3) This section shall not apply to estates tail or to the personal property, except chattels real, of any person who, at the time of his death, is domiciled out of Ontario. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 3.

Administration of Real Property.

4. The enactments and rules of law relating to the effect of probate or letters of administration as respects personal property, etc., etc.
property and as respects the dealings with personal property before probate or administration and as respects the payment of costs of administration and other matters in relation to the administration of personal estate and the powers, rights, duties and liabilities of personal representatives in respect of personal estate shall apply to real property vesting in them, so far as the same are applicable as if that real property were personal property, save that it shall not be lawful for some or one only of several joint personal representatives without the authority of the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof to sell or transfer real property. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 4.

5. Subject to the other provisions of this Act, in the administration of the assets of a deceased person, his real property shall be administered in the same manner, subject to the same liability for debts, costs and expenses and with the same incidents as if it were personal property, but nothing in this section shall alter or affect as respects real or personal property of which the deceased has made a testamentary disposition the order in which real and personal assets are now applicable to the payment of funeral and testamentary expenses, the costs and expenses of administration, debts or legacies, or the liability of real property to be charged with the payment of legacies. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 5.

Payment of Debts out of Residue.

6. Subject to provisions of section 38 of The Wills Act the real and personal property of a deceased person comprised in any residuary devise or bequest shall, except so far as a contrary intention appears from his will or any codicil thereto, be applicable rateably, according to their respective values, to the payment of his debts, funeral and testamentary expenses and the cost and expenses of administration. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 6.

7. When any part of the real property of a deceased person vests in his personal representative under this Act such personal representative, in the interpretation of any Act of this Legislature, or in the construction of any instrument to which the deceased was a party, or under which he is interested, shall, while the estate remains in him, be deemed in law his heir, as respects such part, unless a contrary intention appears; but nothing in this section shall affect the beneficial right to any property, or the construction of words of limitation of any estate in or by any deed, will or other instrument. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 7.

Mortgages, Trust Estates and Dower.

8. Where an estate or interest of inheritance in real property is vested on any trust or by way of mortgage in
any person solely the same shall on his death, notwithstanding any testamentary disposition, devolve to and become vested in his executor or administrator in like manner as if the same were personal estate vesting in him and, accordingly, all the like powers for one only of several joint executors or administrators as well as for a single executor or administrator and for all the executors and administrators together to dispose of and otherwise deal with the same shall belong to the deceased’s executor or administrator with all the like incidents but subject to all the like rights, equities and obligations as if the same were personal estate vesting in him, and for the purposes of this section the executor or administrator of the deceased shall be deemed in law his heirs and assigns within the meaning of all trusts and powers. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 8.

9.—(1) Nothing in this Act shall take away a widow’s right to dower; but a widow may by deed or instrument in writing, attested by at least one witness, elect to take her interest under this Act in her husband’s undisposed of real property in lieu of all claim to dower in respect of the real property of which her husband was at any time seised, or to which at the time of his death he was beneficially entitled; and unless she so elects she shall not be entitled to share in the undisposed of real property.

(2) The personal representative of the deceased may, by notice in writing, require his widow to make her election, and if she fails to execute and deliver a deed or instrument of election to him within six months after the service of the notice she shall be deemed to have elected to take her dower.

(3) Where the widow is an infant or a lunatic the right of election may be exercised on her behalf by the Official Guardian, with the approval of a Judge of the Supreme Court or by some person authorized by a Judge of the Supreme Court to exercise it; and the Official Guardian or the person so authorized may, for and in the name of the widow, give all notices and do all acts necessary or incidental to the exercise of such right. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 9.

10.—(1) Where there is no legal personal representative of a deceased mortgagor of freehold property it shall be sufficient, for the purposes of an action, for the foreclosure of the equity of redemption in, or for the sale of, such property that the person beneficially entitled under the last will and testament, if any, of the deceased mortgagor, or under the provisions of this Act, to such property or the proceeds thereof be made defendant to such action, and it shall not be necessary that a legal personal representative of the deceased mortgagor be appointed or be made a defendant thereto unless it shall be otherwise ordered by the Court in which the action is brought or by a Judge
thereof; but if, during the pendency of such action, the equity of redemption devolves upon and becomes vested in a legal personal representative of the mortgagor he shall be made a party to the action.

(2) In subsection 1 the word "mortgagor" shall include the assignee of a mortgagor and any person entitled to or interested in the equity of redemption. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 10.

11.—(1) Where the personal representative desires to sell any real property devolving upon him free from curtesy or dower he may apply to a Judge of the Supreme Court, who may, in a summary way, and upon notice, to be served personally unless the Judge otherwise directs, order that the same shall be sold free from the right of the tenant by the curtesy or dower; and in making such order regard shall be had to the interests of all parties.

(2) If a sale free from such curtesy or dower is ordered all the right and interest of such tenant by the curtesy or dower shall pass thereby; and no conveyance or release thereof to the purchaser shall be required; and the purchaser, his heirs and assigns, shall hold the real property freed and discharged from the estate or interest of such tenant by the curtesy or dower.

(3) The Judge may direct the payment of such sum in gross out of the purchase money to the person entitled to curtesy or dower as he may deem, upon the principles applicable to life annuities, a reasonable satisfaction for such estate or interest; or may direct the payment to the person entitled of an annual sum, or of the income or interest to be derived from the purchase money or any part thereof, as he may deem just, and for that purpose may make such order for the investment or other disposition of the purchase money or any part thereof as he may deem necessary. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 11.

12.—(1) The real and personal property of every man dying intestate and leaving a widow but no issue shall, where the net value of such real and personal property does not exceed $1,000, belong to his widow absolutely and exclusively.

(2) Where the net value exceeds $1,000 the widow shall be entitled to $1,000 part thereof, absolutely and exclusively, and shall have charge thereon for such sum with interest thereon from the date of the death of the intestate at 4 per centum per annum until payment.

(3) The provision for the widow made by this section shall be in addition and without prejudice to her interest and share in the residue of the real and personal property of the intestate remaining after payment of such sum of $1,000
and interest in the same way as if such residue had been the whole of the intestate's real and personal property, and
this section had not been enacted.

(4) Where the estate consists in whole or in part of real
property this section shall apply only if the widow elects
under section 9 to take an interest in her husband's undis-
posed of real property in lieu of dower.

(5) In this section "net value" shall mean the value of
the real and personal property after payment of the charges
thereon and the debts, funeral expenses and expenses of
administration, including succession duty. 10 Edw. VII.
c. 56, s. 12.

VESTING OF ESTATE AND CAUTIONS.

13.—(1) Real property not disposed of, conveyed to,
divided or distributed among the persons beneficially entitled
thereto, under the provisions of section 21, by the personal
representative within three years after the death of the
deceased shall, subject to The Land Titles Act in the case
of land registered under that Act, at the expiration of that
period, whether probate or letters of administration have
or have not been taken, be thenceforward vested in the per-
sons beneficially entitled thereto under the will or upon the
intestacy or their assigns without any conveyance by the
personal representative unless such personal representative,
if any, has registered, in the proper registry or land titles
office, a caution, Form 1, under his hand, and if such
caution is so registered such real property or the part
thereof mentioned therein shall not be so vested for twelve
months from the time of registration of such caution or of
the last caution if more than one are registered.

(2) The execution of every caution shall be verified by
the affidavit of a subscribing witness in the manner pre-
dcribed by The Registry Act, or The Land Titles Act, as the
case may be.

(3) Where the caution specifies certain parcels of land it
shall be effectual as to those parcels only.

(4) The personal representative, before the expiration of
the twelve months, may register a certificate, Form 2, with-
drawing the caution; or withdrawing the same as to any
parcel of land specified in such certificate and, upon regis-
tration of the certificate, the property or the parcel specified
shall be treated as if the caution had expired.

(5) The certificate of withdrawal shall be verified by an
affidavit of a subscribing witness, Form 3.

(6) Before a caution expires it may be re-registered, and
so on from time to time as long as the personal represen-
tative deems it necessary, and every caution shall continue
in force for twelve months from the time of its registration or re-registration. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 13.

14. Nothing in section 13 shall derogate from any right possessed by an executor or administrator with the will annexed under a will or under The Trustee Act or from any right possessed by a trustee under a will. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 14.

15.—(1) Where a personal representative has not registered a caution within the proper time after the death of the deceased, or has not re-registered a caution within the proper time, he may register or re-register the caution, as the case may be, provided he registers therewith

(a) The affidavit of execution;

(b) A further affidavit stating that he finds or believes that it is or may be necessary for him to sell the real property of the deceased or the part thereof mentioned in the caution, under his powers and in fulfilment of his duties; and as far as they are known to him, the names of all persons beneficially interested in the real property, and whether any, and if so which of them, are infants or lunatics;

(c) The consent in writing of every adult and of the Official Guardian on behalf of every infant and lunatic whose property or interest would be affected; and an affidavit verifying such consent; or

(d) In the absence and in lieu of such consent an order of a Judge of the Supreme Court or of the County or District Court of the county or district wherein the property or some part thereof is situated, or the certificate of the Official Guardian authorizing the caution to be registered, or re-registered, which order or certificate the Judge or Official Guardian may make with or without notice on such evidence as satisfies him of the propriety of permitting the caution to be registered or re-registered; and the order or certificate to be registered shall not require verification and shall not be rendered null by any defect of form or otherwise.

(2) This section shall extend to cases where a grant of probate of the will or of administration to the estate of the deceased may not have been made within the period after the death of the testator or intestate within which a caution is required to be registered.

(3) Where a caution is registered or re-registered, under the authority of this section, it shall have the same effect
as a caution registered within the proper time after the
death of the deceased and of vesting or re-vesting, as the
case may be, the real property of the deceased in his
personal representative, save as to persons who in the
mean-time have acquired rights for valuable consideration from
or through any person beneficially entitled; and save also
and subject to any equities of any non-consenting person
beneficially entitled, or person claiming under him, for
improvements made after the time within which the personal
representative might, without any consent, order or certificate, have registered or re-registered a caution, if his real
property is afterwards sold by the personal representative.

(4) Where there are two or more personal representatives it shall be sufficient if any caution or the affidavit
mentioned in clause (b) of subsection 1 is signed or made
by one of such personal representatives. 10 Edw. VII.
c. 56, s. 15.

16. Where a caution has been registered or re-registered
under the authority of any enactment repealed and not re-
enacted by this Act and is still in force, such caution shall
have the same effect as if such enactment had not been
repealed and may be registered in the manner provided by
section 13. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 16.

17. Any person beneficially entitled to any real property affected by the registration or re-registration of a caution
may apply to a Judge of the Supreme Court to vacate such
registration or re-registration, and the Judge, if satisfied
that the vesting of any such real property in such person
or of any property of the deceased in any other of the persons
beneficially entitled ought not to be delayed, may order
that such registration or re-registration be vacated as to
such property; and every caution, the registration or re-
registration of which is so vacated, shall thereafter cease
to operate. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 17.

18. Where real property becomes vested under this Act
in two or more persons beneficially entitled under this Act,
they shall take as tenants in common in proportion to their
respective rights, unless in the case of a devise they take
otherwise under the provisions of the will of the deceased.
10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 18.

POWERS OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

19.—(1) Where an infant is interested in real property
which but for this Act would not devolve on the personal
representative, no sale or conveyance shall be valid under
this Act without the written approval of the Official
Guardian appointed under The Judicature Act, or, in the
absence of such consent or approval, without an order of a
Judge of the Supreme Court.
Chap. 119.  DEVOLUTION OF ESTATES.  Sec. 19 (2).

(2) The Supreme Court may appoint the Local Judge of any county or district or the Local Master therein, as Local Guardian of Infants, in such county or district during the pleasure of the Court, with authority to give such written approval instead of the Official Guardian; and the Official Guardian and Local Guardian shall be subject to such rules as the Supreme Court may make in regard to their authority and duties under this Act. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 19.

20. Except as herein otherwise provided the personal representative of a deceased person shall have power to dispose of and otherwise deal with the real property vested in him by virtue of this Act, with the like incidents, but subject to the like rights, equities, and obligations, as if the same were personal property vested in him. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 20.

21.—(1) The powers of sale conferred by this Act on a personal representative may be exercised for the purpose not only of paying debts, but also of distributing or dividing the estate among the persons beneficially entitled thereto, whether there are or are not debts, and in no case shall it be necessary that the persons beneficially entitled shall concur in any such sale except where it is made for the purpose of distribution only.

(2) No sale of any such real property made for the purpose of distribution only shall be valid as respects any person beneficially entitled thereto unless he concur therein; but where a lunatic is beneficially entitled or where there are other persons beneficially entitled whose consent to the sale is not obtained by reason of their place of residence being unknown or where in the opinion of the Official Guardian it would be inconvenient to require the concurrence of such persons, he may, upon proof satisfactory to him that such sale is in the interest and to the advantage of the estate of such deceased person and the persons beneficially interested therein, approve such sale on behalf of such lunatic and non-concurring persons, and any such sale made with the written approval of the Official Guardian shall be valid and binding upon such lunatic and non-concurring persons; and for this purpose the Official Guardian shall have the same powers and duties as he has in the case of infants; and provided also that in any case the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof may dispense with the concurrence of the persons beneficially entitled or any or either of them.

(3) The personal representative shall also have power, with the concurrence of the adult persons beneficially entitled thereto, and with the written approval of the Official Guardian on behalf of infants or lunatics, if any, so entitled, to convey, divide or distribute the estate of the
deceased person or any part thereof among the persons beneficially entitled thereto according to their respective shares and interests therein.

(4) Upon the application of the personal representative or of any person beneficially entitled the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof may before the expiration of three years from the death of the deceased, direct the personal representative to divide or distribute the estate or any part thereof to or among the persons beneficially entitled according to their respective rights and interests therein.

(5) The power of division conferred by subsection 3 may also be exercised, although all the persons beneficially interested do not concur, with the written approval of the Official Guardian, which may be given under the same conditions and with the like effect as in the case of a sale under subsection 2.

(6) Where the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities is the Statutory Committee under the provisions of The Hospitals for the Insane Act of a lunatic beneficially entitled, it shall be the duty of the Official Guardian to notify the Inspector of any sale to which he has consented and he may, by leave of the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof, pay to the Inspector the share of such lunatic or such part thereof as the Court or Judge may direct. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 21 (1-6).

(7) Section 20 and this section shall not apply to an administrator where the letters of administration are limited to the personal property, exclusive of the real property, and shall not derogate from any right possessed by a personal representative independently of this Act, but an executor shall not exercise the powers conferred by this section until he has obtained probate of the will unless with the approval of the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 21 (7) ; 2 Geo. V. c. 17, s. 26 (1).

22. The acceptance by an adult of his share of the purchase money in the case of a sale by a personal representative which has been made without the written approval of the Official Guardian, where such approval is required, shall be a confirmation of the sale as to him. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 22.

23. A person purchasing in good faith and for value real property from the personal representative in manner authorized by this Act shall be entitled to hold the same freed and discharged from any debts or liabilities of the deceased owner, except such as are specifically charged thereon otherwise than by his will, and from all claims of the persons beneficially entitled thereto, and shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 23.
Protection of bona fide purchasers from beneficiary.

24.—(1) A person purchasing real property in good faith and for value from a person beneficially entitled, to whom it has been conveyed by the personal representative, by leave of the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof, shall be entitled to hold the same freed and discharged from any debts and liabilities of the deceased owner, except such as are specifically charged thereon otherwise than by his will; but nothing in this section shall affect the rights of creditors as against the personal representative personally, or as against any person beneficially entitled to whom real property of a deceased owner has been conveyed by the personal representative.

(2) Real property which becomes vested in the person beneficially entitled thereto, under section 13, shall continue to be liable to answer the debts of the deceased owner so long as it remains vested in such person, or in any person claiming under him, not being a purchaser in good faith and for valuable consideration, as it would have been if it had remained vested in the personal representative, and in the event of a sale thereof in good faith and for value by such person beneficially entitled he shall be personally liable for such debts to the extent of the proceeds of such real property. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 24.

Powers of personal representative as to leasing and mortgaging.

25.—(1) The powers of a personal representative under this Act shall include

(a) Power to lease from year to year while the real property remains vested in him.

(b) Power with the approval of the Supreme Court, or a Judge thereof to lease for a longer term.

(c) Power to mortgage for the payment of debts.

(2) The written approval of the Official Guardian to mortgaging shall be required where it would be required if the real property were being sold. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 25.

Rights of purchaser in good faith against claims of creditors.

26.—(1) A purchaser in good faith and for value of real property of a deceased owner which has become vested under the provisions of section 13 in a person beneficially entitled thereto, shall be entitled to hold it freed and discharged from the claims of creditors of the deceased owner except such of them of which he had notice at the time of his purchase.

(2) Nothing in subsection 1 shall affect the right of the creditor against the personal representative personally where he has permitted the real property to become vested in the person beneficially entitled to the prejudice of the creditor or against the person beneficially entitled. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 26.
27.—(1) An illegitimate child or relative shall not share under any of the provisions of this Act.

(2) A person born out of matrimony shall not become legitimate by the subsequent marriage of his parents. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 27.

**Advancement.**

28.—(1) If any child of an intestate has been advanced by him by settlement or portion of real or personal property, or both, and the same has been so expressed by the intestate in writing, or so acknowledged in writing by the child, the value thereof shall be reckoned, for the purposes of this section only, as part of the real and personal property of such intestate to be distributed under the provisions of this Act; and if such advancement is equal to or greater than the amount of the share which such child would be entitled to receive of the real and personal property of the deceased, then such child and his descendants shall be excluded from any share in the real and personal property of the intestate.

(2) If such advancement is less than such share such child and his descendants shall be entitled to so much only of the real and personal property as is sufficient to make all the shares of the children in such real and personal property and advancement to be equal, as nearly as can be estimated.

(3) The value of any real or personal property so advanced shall be deemed to be that, if any, which has been acknowledged by the child by an instrument in writing; otherwise such value shall be estimated according to the value of the property when given.

(4) The maintaining or educating, or the giving of money to a child without a view to a portion or settlement in life shall not be deemed an advancement within the meaning of this Act. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 28.

**Intestate Married Women.**

29.—(1) The real and personal property, whether separate or otherwise, of a married woman in respect of which she dies intestate, shall be distributed as follows: One-third to her husband if she leaves issue, and one-half if she leaves no issue, and subject thereto shall devolve as if her husband had pre-deceased her. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 29 (1); 2 Geo. V. c. 17, s. 26 (2).

(2) A husband who, if this Act had not been passed, would be entitled to an interest as tenant by the curtesy in real property of his wife, may, by deed or instrument in
writing executed, and attested by at least one witness, and
delivered to the personal representative, if any, or if there
is none, deposited in the office of the Surrogate Clerk at
Toronto, within six months after his wife's death, elect to
take such interest in the real and personal property of his
wife as he would have taken if this Act had not been passed,
in which case the husband's interest therein shall be ascer-
tained in all respects as if this Act had not been passed,
and he shall be entitled to no further interest thereunder.
10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 29 (2).

Distribution of Personalty.

30. Except as in this Act is otherwise provided the per-
sonal property of a person dying intestate shall be distributed
as follows, that is to say: one-third to the wife of the intestate
and all the residue by equal portions among the children
of the intestate and such persons as legally represent such
children in case any of them have died in his lifetime, and
if there are no children or any legal representatives of
them then one-half of the personal property shall be allotted
to the wife, and the residue thereof shall be distributed
equally to every of the next of kindred of the intestate who
are of equal degree and those who legally represent them, and
for the purpose of this section the father and the mother
and the brothers and sisters of the intestate shall be
deemed of equal degree; but there shall be no representa-
tions admitted among collaterals after brothers' and sisters' children, and if there is no wife then all such personal
property shall be distributed equally among the children,
and if there is no child then to the next of kindred in equal
degree of or unto the intestate and their legal representa-
tives and in no other manner. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 30.

31. If, after the death of a father, any of his children die
intestate without wife or children in the lifetime of the
mother, every brother and sister and the representatives of
them shall have an equal share with her, anything in section
30 to the contrary notwithstanding. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 31.

32. Subject to provisions of section 55 of The Trustee Act,
no such distribution shall be made until after one year
from the death of the intestate, and every person to whom
in distribution a share shall be allotted shall, if any debt
owing by the intestate shall be afterwards sued for and
recovered or otherwise duly made to appear, refund and pay
back to the personal representative his rateable part of that
debt and of the costs of suit and charges of the personal
representative by reason of such debt out of the part or
share so allotted to him, thereby to enable the personal
representative to pay and satisfy such debt, and shall give
bond with sufficient sureties that he will do so. 10 Edw.
VII. c. 56, s. 32.
33.—(1) The Official Guardian may, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, or of the Judges of the Supreme Court, make Rules regulating the practice and procedure to be followed in all proceedings under this Act, in which his privity, consent or approval is required, and may frame a tariff of the fees to be allowed and paid to solicitors for services rendered in such proceedings.

(2) Such Rules and tariff when so approved shall be published in the Ontario Gazette, and shall thereupon have the force of law; and the same shall be laid before the Assembly at the next session after the publication thereof.

(3) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint a Deputy pro tempore of the Official Guardian for the purposes of this Act who shall have all the powers of the Official Guardian for such purposes. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 33.

34. Affidavits may be used in proceedings taken under this Act. 10 Edw. VII. c. 56, s. 34.
FORM 3.

(Section 13.)

THE DEVOLUTION OF ESTATES ACT.

I, , of, etc., make oath and say I am well acquainted with named in the above certificate; that I was present and did see the said certificate signed by the said ; that I am a subscribing witness to the said certificate and I believe the said is the person who registered the caution referred to in the said certificate.

Sworn, etc.

10 Edw. VII. c. 56, Form 3.