Missouri Small Estate Worksheet (2026)

Test the $40,000 limit after liens, debt and encumbrances, list the creditors, and plan the bond and notice for a small estate affidavit under RSMo 473.097

The affidavit is open to an estate worth $40,000 or less after liens, debt and encumbrances, and it can include real estate. Thirty days must have passed since the death. Full guide: clearlegaltips.com/missouri-small-estate-affidavit/

Step 1: The decedent and the timing

Decedent's full legal name: _____

Date of death: _____

Date of death + 30 days (earliest filing date): _____

County where the probate division is located: _____

[ ] No application for letters, for administration or for refusal of letters (473.090) is pending or granted

[ ] No will, or a will was presented for probate (where no notice of letters has been given, within one year of the death, 473.050)

Step 2: List the property

List the real and personal property of the decedent. The statute leaves property held as a tenant by the entirety or a joint tenant out of the itemized list (for the itemized list only; it does not say how that property counts toward the limit, so ask the clerk). Attach a second sheet if you need more rows.

Item (house, account, vehicle)	Real or personal	Value

TOTAL value of the property: _____

Step 3: Subtract liens, debt and encumbrances

Mortgage, lien, loan or debt	Creditor	Amount

TOTAL of liens, debt and encumbrances: _____

Estate value for the limit (Step 2 total minus Step 3 total): _____

[ ] Result is $40,000 or less

Step 4: Creditor list (form PR16)

If the death was less than a year before filing and the decedent's debts are used to bring the estate down to $40,000, form PR16 asks you to attach a list of creditors with the amount owed to each.

[ ] Death was less than one year before filing

[ ] Creditor list with the amount owed to each is attached

Step 5: Bond and notice to creditors

Value of the personal property (the bond is at least this much): _____

[ ] Bond filed, approved by the judge or clerk, or

[ ] Asked the court to dispense with the bond because it is not necessary

Value of all property listed in the affidavit: _____

[ ] Listed value is more than $15,000, so the clerk has a notice to creditors published once a week for two consecutive weeks

[ ] Publication cost paid, or proof of payment given to the clerk

Step 6: Fee and county check

Court Operating Rule 21.01 lists $35 for a small estate proceeding. County totals are higher: the guide's table shows $55.50 to $85.50 for an estate without a will, plus publication when notice is required. Amounts change, so use the clerk's current schedule.

Filing fee quoted by the clerk: _____

Attorney required in this county? (Jefferson: over $15,000 or with real property. St. Louis County packets: not without an attorney. Ask the clerk.): _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Figures and rules checked in October 2026 against RSMo 473.097, 473.090, 473.050 and 483.580, Court Operating Rule 21.01, form PR16 and the Jefferson, Greene, Jackson and St. Louis County published materials. General information, not legal advice. Court practice varies by county, so confirm forms, fees and attorney rules with the clerk. Companion guide: clearlegaltips.com/missouri-small-estate-affidavit/