Washington Small Estate Worksheet (2026)

Test the estate against the $100,000 limit in RCW 11.62.010, log your 10-day notices, and set up the DSHS copy

Washington's small estate affidavit reaches personal property only. The test is the value of the decedent's entire estate subject to probate, wherever located, less liens and encumbrances, not including the surviving spouse's or domestic partner's community property interest in any assets subject to probate. Full guide and sources: clearlegaltips.com/washington-small-estate-affidavit/

Step 1: Basic eligibility

[ ] The decedent was a resident of Washington on the date of death.

[ ] At least 40 days have passed since the death.

[ ] No application or petition for appointment of a personal representative is pending or has been granted in any jurisdiction.

[ ] You are a successor under RCW 11.62.005: entitled under the will or intestacy law, a surviving spouse or partner to the extent of a one-half community interest, DSHS to the extent of its claim, or the state for escheat property.

Date of death: _____

Date 40 days after the death (earliest day to present the affidavit): _____

Step 2: Probate assets (decedent's name, no survivorship or beneficiary)

Leave out nonprobate assets listed in RCW 11.02.005, such as survivorship accounts, transfer on death deeds and individual retirement accounts. Ask the insurer or plan administrator about life insurance and employee plans.

Bank and credit union accounts ($): _____

Brokerage accounts, stocks and bonds ($): _____

Vehicles and vessels ($): _____

Household goods and valuables ($): _____

Money owed to the decedent: final pay, refunds, loans ($): _____

Real estate in the decedent's name that must go through probate: value minus liens ($): _____

Note: our reading is that this real estate counts toward the limit; the affidavit cannot transfer it.

Minus other liens and encumbrances on these items ($): _____

Step 3: Community property adjustment (married or registered partners)

Total community property that is subject to probate ($): _____

Surviving spouse or partner's community interest, to be excluded ($): _____

Decedent's half that stays in the test ($): _____

Decedent's separate property subject to probate ($): _____

Step 4: Result

Estate subject to probate for the test (must not exceed $100,000) ($): _____

[ ] Total does not exceed $100,000. If it is over, the affidavit is not available.

Step 5: Notice log (RCW 11.62.010(2)(h))

Every other successor gets written notice, by personal service or by mail, that identifies your claim and describes the property. At least 10 days must pass after service or mailing.

Successor name	Address	Method (personal service or mail)	Date sent	Day 10

Step 6: Debts, authority and DSHS copy

Funeral and burial expenses paid or provided for ($): _____

Other debts of the decedent paid or provided for ($): _____

[ ] Successors with an interest who gave you written authority to claim on their behalf, attached.

Date the copy of the signed affidavit was mailed to DSHS, Office of Financial Recovery, PO Box 9501, Olympia, WA 98507-9501: _____

The copy must include the decedent's Social Security number (RCW 11.62.010(5)). Vehicles have separate Department of Licensing paperwork (form TD-420-041).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Figures checked in October 2026 against RCW 11.62.005, 11.62.010, 11.02.005, 11.02.070 and 11.04.015, WAC 308-56A-335 and the Department of Licensing and DSHS pages. This worksheet is general information, not legal advice. Guide: clearlegaltips.com/washington-small-estate-affidavit/