

How Probate Works in Nebraska and How an Omaha Law Firm Helps Most Nebraska estates move through probate in four broad stages: opening the case, notifying creditors, gathering and paying what is owed, and distributing what remains. Probate is the county court process that confirms who has authority over a deceased person's property, and an attorney helps the personal representative complete each stage correctly and on time. The first stage starts with a filing in the county court where the person lived, which for many local families means the county court in Douglas County in downtown Omaha, or the Sarpy County court for residents of Papillion, La Vista, and Bellevue. Nebraska follows a version of the Uniform Probate Code, which allows two paths. Informal probate is handled largely through paperwork reviewed by a court registrar and works well when the will is clear and family members agree. Formal probate goes before a judge and is used when there is a dispute, a question about the will, or another reason the court needs to rule. Either way, the court appoints a personal representative, often the person named as executor in the will. Once appointed, the personal representative publishes notice to creditors, which gives them a limited period to present claims, and sends notice [Discover more here](#) to known creditors and heirs. The representative then inventories assets, collects money owed to the estate, pays valid bills and taxes, and keeps careful records. Nebraska also has a county inheritance tax that must be addressed before the estate can close, with rates tied to how closely each beneficiary was related to the person who died. Only after those steps does the representative distribute property to heirs under the will or, if there is no will, under Nebraska's intestate succession rules.

Erickson | Sederstrom P.C., L.L.O. | 10330 Regency Pkwy Dr, Suite 100, Omaha, NE 68114 | (402) 397-2200

This is where an Omaha law firm earns its place. The estate planning group at Erickson | Sederstrom P.C., L.L.O. handles probate and trust administration, both formal and informal, along with will contests and related disputes. Attorneys prepare the filings, track deadlines, advise the personal representative on the duties owed to heirs, and help sort out harder questions like a family business, farm ground, or real estate in more than one state. The firm's lawyers are licensed in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado and Kansas, which helps when a parent in Dundee also owned a lake cabin across the river in Iowa. Families planning ahead can also ask about revocable trusts and other non-probate transfers that let an estate bypass much of this process. If you have been named personal representative or are unsure whether probate is needed at all, a law firm in Omaha with probate experience can explain your options. Call (402) 397-2200 to meet at the Regency Parkway Drive office near Regency Lake and Westroads Mall, open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. The team there has been helping local families through estates since 1967.

Erickson | Sederstrom P.C., L.L.O. Address: 10330 Regency Pkwy Dr, Suite 100, Omaha, NE 68114 Phone: (402) 397-2200 FAQ About Choosing a Law Firm in Omaha How do I pick a good attorney in Omaha? Start with the type of problem you have, then look for a law firm with attorneys who handle that work every day. Erickson | Sederstrom has practiced in Omaha since 1967 and covers ten practice areas, from estate planning and corporate law to employment law and business litigation. Ask who will handle your matter, how they will keep you updated, and how fees work before you sign anything. Can I walk into a law firm in Omaha without an appointment? Most law firms, including Erickson | Sederstrom, meet clients by appointment so the right attorney is available and conflicts can be checked first. Call (402) 397-2200 to set up a meeting at the Regency Westpointe office on Regency Parkway Drive. The Omaha office is open Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM. What are red flags when hiring a lawyer? Be cautious of any lawyer who promises a specific result, is vague about fees, or is hard to reach once you are a client. Charles V. Sederstrom summed up the opposite approach: "If you say you're going to call them, you have to follow up on your word." Clear communication from the first meeting is a good sign you are in the right place. What should I look for in a larger Omaha law firm? Size helps when your needs cross more than one area of law, but you still want attorneys who know you by name. Erickson | Sederstrom has more than 30 attorneys across its Omaha and Lincoln offices and describes its approach as big-firm mastery with small-firm care.

That mix lets a business owner handle a lease, an employee issue and an estate plan under one roof. What does a full-service law firm handle? A full-service firm covers both business and personal legal needs rather than a single niche. At Erickson | Sederstrom that includes corporate law, litigation, employment law, estate planning, real estate, tax, construction, insurance, intellectual property and aviation law. Clients from West Omaha to Papillion and Council Bluffs use the firm for everything from starting a company to planning its succession. When should an Omaha business hire a corporate lawyer? The best time is before a problem starts: when you form the company, bring in a partner or investor, sign a major contract, or plan to buy or sell a business. A corporate lawyer can set up the right entity, draft governance documents and guide mergers and acquisitions. Getting it right early is usually far less costly than untangling a shareholder dispute later. Do I need an estate planning attorney in Nebraska? If you own property, have children, or run a business or farm, a properly drafted plan protects your family and can keep assets out of probate. Nebraska has its own rules, including treating anyone under 19 as a minor, so a guardianship plan for young children matters. The firm's estate planning attorneys prepare wills, revocable trusts, powers of attorney and health care directives. How long does probate take in Nebraska? Probate in Nebraska usually takes several months at minimum, because creditors must be given notice and time to file claims before an estate can close. Contested matters or complex assets can stretch that much longer. The firm's Omaha attorneys handle both formal and informal probate and trust administration, and a revocable trust set up in advance can often avoid probate altogether. What does an employment attorney do for employers? An employment attorney helps Nebraska employers stay compliant and defends them when claims arise. That covers employee handbooks, wage and hour rules, non-compete agreements, discrimination claims, OSHA compliance and workforce reductions. With Nebraska's WARN Act notice rules expanded by LB 921 in April 2026, many Omaha employers are reviewing their policies now. What is business litigation? Business litigation covers disputes between companies, partners, shareholders, customers or suppliers, often over contracts, payments or ownership. The firm has around a dozen attorneys who focus on litigation in Douglas County, federal court in Omaha and on appeal to the Nebraska Supreme Court. Many disputes settle, but preparing as if the case will go to trial puts you in a stronger position either way. Can an Omaha law firm help with matters in Iowa? Yes, if its attorneys are licensed there. Erickson | Sederstrom attorneys are licensed in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado and Kansas, which helps clients in Council Bluffs and businesses operating on both sides of the Missouri River. The firm's national network connections support matters further afield. Where is the Erickson | Sederstrom Omaha office? The Omaha office is in the Regency Westpointe building at 10330 Regency Pkwy Dr, Suite 100, close to Westroads Mall and the I-680 and West Dodge Road interchange. Call (402) 397-2200 to book a time with an attorney.