

633.374 Allowance to surviving spouse.

1. The personal representative of the estate shall mail to the surviving spouse pursuant to section 633.40, subsection 5, a written notice regarding the right to request a spousal allowance. The notice shall inform the surviving spouse of the surviving spouse's right to submit an application to the court within four months of service of the notice, for support for a period of twelve months following the death of the decedent, and for support of the decedent's dependents who reside with the spouse for the same period of time.

2. The court shall, upon application, set off and order paid to the surviving spouse, as part of the costs of administration, sufficient of the decedent's property including assets held in a revocable trust of which the decedent is the settlor to the extent that estate assets are not sufficient as it deems reasonable for the proper support of the surviving spouse for the period of twelve months following the death of the decedent. Notice of hearing upon the application shall be given to the surviving spouse, personal representative if the application is not made by the personal representative, trustee of any revocable trust of which the decedent is the settlor, and all other interested persons. The court shall take into consideration the station in life of the surviving spouse, the assets and condition of the estate and any revocable trust of which the decedent is the settlor, the nonprobate assets received by the surviving spouse by reason of the death of the decedent, and the income and other resources of the surviving spouse. If the trustee of a revocable trust of which the decedent was a settlor has previously made payments under section 633A.3114 to the spouse, the court shall reduce the award by the amount of such payments. The allowance shall also include such additional amount as the court deems reasonable for the proper support, during such period, of dependents of the decedent who reside with the surviving spouse. Such allowance to the surviving spouse shall not abate upon the death or remarriage of such spouse. If an application for support has not been filed within four months following service of the notice by or on behalf of the surviving spouse and the dependents of the decedent who reside with the surviving spouse, the surviving spouse and the dependents of the decedent shall be deemed to have waived the right to apply for support during the administration of the estate.

3. A surviving spouse who qualifies for a support allowance under this section may waive the right to such allowance for the surviving spouse and for the dependents of the decedent who reside with the surviving spouse by filing an affidavit acknowledging receipt of notice and irrevocably waiving the right to support under this section.

[C51, §1338; R60, §2370; C73, §2375, 2377; C97, §3314; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §11923, 11924; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, §635.12, 635.13; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §633.374]

2008 Acts, ch 1119, §18, 39; 2012 Acts, ch 1123, §9, 32

Referred to in §633.376

[SP] 2012 amendment to this section applies to estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 2012; 2012 Acts, ch 1123, §32