SLS 24RS-246 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 32

BY SENATOR MILLER (On Recommendation of the Louisiana State Law Institute)

SUCCESSIONS. Provides for small succession procedures. (8/1/24)

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact Code of Civil Procedure Arts. 3421, 3422, 3422.1(B), (C), and (E),
3	3431, 3432, 3432.1, 3434, and 3443, and to enact Code of Civil Procedure Art. 3433,
4	relative to small succession procedures; to provide for the definition of a small
5	succession; to provide for court costs; to provide for immovable property damaged
6	by disaster; to provide for judicial proceedings; to provide for affidavits for small
7	successions; to provide for the delivery of property; to provide for the sale of
8	succession property; and to provide for related matters.
9	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
10	Section 1. Code of Civil Procedure Arts. 3421, 3422, 3422.1(B), (C), and (E), 3431,
11	3432, 3432.1, 3434, and 3443 are hereby amended and reenacted, and Code of Civil
12	Procedure Art. 3433 is hereby enacted, to read as follows:
13	Art. 3421. Small successions defined
14	A. A small succession, within the meaning of this Title, is the succession or
15	the ancillary any of the following:
16	(1) The succession of a person who at any time has died and the decedent's
17	property died domiciled in Louisiana has and who died leaving property with a

2	of death.
3	(2) The ancillary succession of a person who died domiciled outside of
4	Louisiana and who died leaving property in Louisiana with a gross value of one
5	hundred twenty-five thousand dollars or less valued as of the date of death.
6	(3) The succession of a person whose or, if the date of death occurred at
7	least twenty years prior to the date of filing execution of a small succession affidavit
8	as authorized in this Title, and who died leaving property in Louisiana of any value.
9	B. A small succession shall also include a succession of a person who has
10	died testate, leaving no immovable property, and probate of the testament of the
11	deceased would have the same effect as if the deceased had died intestate.
12	Comments – 2024
13	This revision clarifies the scope of the small succession legislation. It
14	changes the law insofar as it allows the estate of a decedent who dies testate and
15	domiciled in Louisiana with immovable property to qualify as a small succession,
16	provided that the gross value of the estate is one hundred twenty-five thousand
17	dollars or less. In doing so, this revision allows a testate succession that includes
18	immovable property and qualifies as a small succession under this Title to qualify
19	for reduced court costs under Article 3422, but the revision does not allow such a
20	succession to utilize the affidavit process provided in Article 3431.
21	Art. 3422. Court costs; compensation
22	In judicial proceedings under this Title, the following schedule of costs,
23	compensation, and fees shall prevail:
24	(1) Court costs for successions valued less than one hundred twenty-five
25	thousand dollars shall be one-half $\underline{of}$ the court costs in similar proceedings in larger
26	successions that are not small successions, but the minimum costs in any case shall
27	be five dollars; and.
28	(2) The compensation of the succession representative shall be not more than
29	five percent of the gross assets of the succession.

gross value of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars or less valued as of the date

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This revision clarifies the law. It changes the law only insofar as it eliminates
an outdated reference to a minimum court cost for a small succession.

Art. 3422.1. Small succession immovable property damaged by disaster or catastrophe

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B. In the absence of a written agreement between co-owners for the use and management of such the immovable recorded in the conveyance or mortgage records for the parish in which the immovable is situated, any public entity or agent of such a public entity may conclusively presume that a co-owner in possession of the immovable for more than one year has been appointed by all co-owners to manage, administer, repair, reconstruct, and restore the immovable, and to receive, disburse and account for funds given to him by the public entity solely for the purposes of such repair, reconstruction, and restoration as a managing co-owner.

C. The power of the managing co-owner shall include the power to execute mortgages to secure funds not exceeding the amount necessary to repair, reconstruct, and restore the immovable, and also to encumber the immovable with such restrictions as may be required by the public entity, without the need to obtain the concurrence of all co-owners. do any of the following, without the need to obtain the concurrence of all co-owners:

- (1) Manage, administer, repair, reconstruct, and restore the immovable.
- (2) Receive, disburse, and account for funds given to the managing co-owner by a public entity solely for the purposes of the repair, reconstruction, and restoration of the immovable.
- (3) Execute mortgages to secure funds not exceeding the amount necessary to repair, reconstruct, and restore the immovable.
- (4) Encumber the immovable with restrictions as may be required by a public entity.

29 \* \* \*

1	E. The management of the immovable by the co-owner shall be subject to the
2	laws of negotiorum gestio and mandate applicable to co-owners. However, the
3	provisions of this Article shall control to the extent of any conflict to the extent not
4	inconsistent with the provisions of this Article.
5	* * *
6	Comments - 2024
7	This revision clarifies the law by reorganizing various provisions in existing
8	law. It does not change the law, which allows for a "managing co-owner" to perform
9	various actions provided in Paragraph C of this Article without the concurrence of
10	other co-owners in dealing with certain types of damaged immovable property
11	subject to a small succession proceeding.
12	Art. 3431. Small successions; judicial opening unnecessary
13	A. It shall not be necessary to open judicially the small succession of $a$ <u>any</u>
14	of the following persons:
15	(1) A person domiciled in Louisiana who died intestate or testate as provided
16	by Article 3421(B), or.
17	(2) A person domiciled in Louisiana who died testate leaving no
18	immovable property in Louisiana, if the surviving spouse, all persons who
19	would inherit under the testament, and all other persons who would inherit in
20	the absence of a testament agree to waive probate of the testament.
21	(3) A person domiciled outside of Louisiana who died intestate or whose
22	testament has been probated by court order of another state., and whose sole heirs are
23	the following:
24	(1) His descendants.
25	(2) His ascendants.
26	(3) His brothers or sisters, or descendants thereof.
27	(4) His surviving spouse.
28	(5) His legatees under a testament.
29	B. Any person appointed as public administrator by the governor may use the

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1 affidavit procedure of this Chapter to take possession of the estate of the deceased, 2 if the estate of the deceased would qualify as a small succession, for transmittal to the state, provided that there is no surviving spouse or other heir present or 3 represented in the state, and provided he that the public administrator has 4 5 advertised one time in the official journal of the parish where a succession would have been opened under in accordance with Article 2811, and verifies that he has 6 7 received no notice of opposition has been received. 8 C. The legal notice required in Paragraph B of this Article shall read as 9 follows: 10 "Notice is hereby given to any heirs or creditors of \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_, Public Administrator for the parish of \_\_\_\_\_\_, intends to 11 administer the intestate succession of , under the provisions 12 13 of Small Successions as set forth in Chapter 2 of Title V of Book VI of the Code of Civil Procedure. 14 Anyone having an objection to such the administration of the succession 15 16 should notify at Comments - 202417 This revision preserves much of existing law but modifies the law with regard 18 19 to when the judicial opening of a succession is unnecessary for some types of successions. Specifically, in accordance with this revision, it is not necessary to open 20 21 judicially the succession of a decedent who died testate and domiciled in Louisiana 22 if the estate qualifies as a small succession and the decedent's succession does not transfer immovable property in Louisiana, provided that the surviving spouse, all 23 persons who would inherit under the testament, and all other persons who would 24 inherit in the absence of a testament agree to waive probate of the testament. 25 Similarly, it is not necessary to open judicially the succession of a decedent who died 26 27 domiciled outside of Louisiana, if the estate qualifies as a small succession and the decedent died either intestate or testate, provided that the testament has been 28

probated by a foreign court.

29

1	Art. 3432. Affidavit for small succession for a person who died intestate; contents
2	A. When it is not necessary under in accordance with the provisions of
3	Article 3431 to open judicially a small succession, at least two persons, including the
4	surviving spouse, if any, and one or more competent major heirs of the deceased,
5	may execute one or more multiple originals of an affidavit, duly sworn before any
6	officer or person authorized to administer oaths in the place where the affidavit is
7	executed, setting forth all of the following:
8	(1) The date of death of the deceased, and his domicile at the time thereof;
9	(2) The fact that the deceased died intestate;
10	(3) The marital status of the deceased, the location of the last residence of the
11	deceased, and the name of the surviving spouse, if any, and the surviving spouse's
12	address, domicile, and location of last residence;
13	(4) The names and last known addresses of the heirs of the deceased, their
14	relationship to the deceased, and the statement that an heir not signing the affidavit
15	either:
16	(a) cannot Cannot be located after the exercise of reasonable diligence, or.
17	(b) was Was given ten thirty days notice by U.S. United States mail of the
18	affiants' intent to execute an affidavit for small succession and did not object;
19	(5) A description of the property left by the deceased, including whether the
20	property is community or separate, and which, in the case of immovable property,
21	must shall be sufficient to identify the property for purposes of transfer;
22	(6) A showing of the value of each item of property, and the aggregate value
23	of all such the property, at the time of the death of the deceased;
24	(7) A statement describing the respective interests in the property which that
25	each heir has inherited and whether a legal usufruct of the surviving spouse attaches
26	to the property;.
27	(8) An affirmation that, by signing the affidavit, the affiant, if an heir, has
28	accepted the succession of the deceased; and.
29	(9) An affirmation that, by signing the affidavit, the affiants swear under

penalty of perjury that the information contained in the affidavit is true, correct, and complete to the best of their knowledge, information, and belief.

B. If the deceased had no surviving spouse, the affidavit must shall be signed by at least two heirs. If the deceased had no surviving spouse and only one heir, the affidavit must shall also be signed by a second person who has actual knowledge of the matters stated therein in the affidavit.

C. In addition to the powers of a natural tutor <u>or curator</u> otherwise provided by law, a natural tutor may also execute the affidavit on behalf of a minor child without the necessity of filing a petition pursuant to Article 4061, <u>and a curator may also execute the affidavit on behalf of an interdict without the necessity of court authorization</u>.

## Comments-2024

This revision preserves much of existing law but provides a unified approach for decedents who die intestate, whether domiciled in Louisiana or outside of Louisiana. The contents of the required affidavit have not been changed by the revision, other than to make minor semantic changes, to extend the notice period given to heirs not signing the affidavit in accordance with Subsubparagraph (A)(4)(b) of this Article, and to include curators in Paragraph C of this Article.

Art. 3432.1. Affidavit for small succession for a person **domiciled in Louisiana** who died testate; contents

A. When it is not necessary under in accordance with the provisions of Article 3431 to open judicially a small succession, at least two persons all of the heirs and legatees of the deceased, including the surviving spouse, if any, and one or more competent legatees of the deceased, may execute one or more multiple originals of an affidavit, duly sworn before any officer or person authorized to administer oaths in the place where the affidavit is executed, setting forth all of the following:

- (1) The date of death of the deceased, and his domicile at the time thereof.
- (2) The fact that the deceased died testate.

1	(3) The marital status of the deceased, the location of the last residence of the
2	deceased, and the name of the surviving spouse, if any, and the surviving spouse's
3	address, domicile, and location of last residence, together with the names and last
4	known addresses of the <del>legal</del> heirs of the deceased, and identifying those of the <del>legal</del>
5	heirs who are also forced heirs of the deceased.
6	(4) The names and last known addresses of the legatees of the deceased, and
7	the statement that a legatee not signing the affidavit was given ten days notice by
8	U.S. mail of the affiants' intent to execute an affidavit for small succession and did
9	not object.
10	(5) A description of the <b>movable</b> property left by the deceased, including
11	whether the property is community or separate, and which, in the case of an
12	affirmation that the deceased died owning no immovable property, must be
13	sufficient to identify the property for purposes of transfer in Louisiana.
14	(6) A showing of the value of each item of property subject to the jurisdiction
15	of the courts of Louisiana, and the aggregate value of all such the property, at the
16	time of the death of the deceased.
17	(7) A statement describing the respective interests in the property which that
18	each legatee has inherited and whether a <u>legal</u> usufruct of the surviving spouse
19	attaches to the property.
20	(8) An attachment consisting of certified copies a copy of the testament and,
21	if the testament has been probated by court order of another state, the probate order
22	of the other state.
23	(9) An affirmation that, by signing the affidavit, the affiant, if a legatee, has
24	accepted the legacy of the deceased.
25	(10) An affirmation that, by signing the affidavit, each affiant expressly
26	waives any right to challenge the validity of the testament or any of its
27	provisions.
28	(11) An affirmation that, by signing the affidavit, the affiants swear under
29	penalty of perjury that the information contained in the affidavit is true, correct, and

1 complete to the best of their knowledge, information, and belief. 2 B. If the deceased had no surviving spouse, the affidavit must be signed by 3 at least two persons who have actual knowledge of the matters stated therein. C. In addition to the powers of a natural tutor **or curator** otherwise provided 4 5 by law, a natural tutor may also execute the affidavit on behalf of a minor child 6 without the necessity of filing a petition pursuant to Article 4061, and a curator 7 may also execute the affidavit on behalf of an interdict without the necessity of 8 court authorization. 9 Comments – 2024 10 This revision preserves much of existing law and specifies the requirements 11 of an affidavit for decedents who die testate and domiciled in Louisiana. Unlike 12 Articles 3432(A) and 3433(A), all heirs and legatees of the deceased, including the 13 surviving spouse, must sign the affidavit prescribed in this Article. The affidavit procedure prescribed in this Article is not available if a decedent died testate owning 14 15 immovable property in Louisiana. 16 Art. 3433. Affidavit for small succession for a person domiciled outside of Louisiana who died testate; contents 17 A. When it is not necessary in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 19 3431 to open judicially a small succession, at least two persons, including the 20 surviving spouse, if any, and one or more legatees of the deceased, may execute 21 one or more multiple originals of an affidavit, duly sworn before any officer or 22 person authorized to administer oaths in the place where the affidavit is executed, setting forth all of the following: 23 24 (1) The date of death of the deceased, and his domicile at the time thereof. 25 (2) The fact that the deceased died testate. 26 27 (3) The marital status of the deceased, the location of the last residence 28 of the deceased, and the name of the surviving spouse, if any, and the surviving 29 spouse's address, domicile, and location of last residence, together with the

2	those of the heirs who are also forced heirs of the deceased.
3	(4) The names and last known addresses of the legatees of the deceased,
4	and the statement that a legatee not signing the affidavit was given thirty-days
5	notice by United States mail of the affiants' intent to execute an affidavit for
6	small succession and did not object.
7	(5) A description of the property left by the deceased in Louisiana,
8	including whether the property is community or separate, and which, in the
9	case of immovable property, shall be sufficient to identify the property for
10	purposes of transfer.
11	(6) A showing of the value of each item of property subject to the
12	jurisdiction of the courts of Louisiana, and the aggregate value of the property,
13	at the time of the death of the deceased.
14	(7) A statement describing the respective interests in the property that
15	each legatee has inherited and whether a legal usufruct of the surviving spouse
16	attaches to the property.
17	(8) An attachment consisting of a copy of the testament and a certified
18	copy of the probate order of the court of another jurisdiction or the equivalent
19	thereof.
20	(9) An affirmation that, by signing the affidavit, the affiant, if a legatee,
21	has accepted the legacy of the deceased.
22	(10) An affirmation that, by signing the affidavit, the affiants swear
23	under penalty of perjury that the information contained in the affidavit is true,
24	correct, and complete to the best of their knowledge, information, and belief.
25	B. If the deceased had no surviving spouse, the affidavit shall be signed
26	by at least two persons who have actual knowledge of the matters stated in the
27	affidavit.
28	C. In addition to the powers of a natural tutor or curator otherwise
29	provided by law, a natural tutor may also execute the affidavit on behalf of a

names and last known addresses of the heirs of the deceased, and identifying

minor child without the necessity of filing a petition pursuant to Article 4061, and a curator may also execute the affidavit on behalf of an interdict without the necessity of court authorization.

Comments - 2024

This revision preserves much of existing law and specifies the requirements of an affidavit for decedents who die testate and domiciled outside of Louisiana. Unlike Article 3432.1(A), only two persons must sign the affidavit prescribed in this Article. Again, unlike Article 3432.1, this Article allows for use of the affidavit procedure when the decedent dies domiciled outside of Louisiana while owning immovable property in Louisiana but requires, in accordance with Subparagraph (A)(8) of this Article, that both a copy of the testament and the probate order must be attached to the affidavit.

Art. 3434. Endorsed copy of affidavit authority for delivery of property

A. A multiple original of the affidavit <u>or a certified copy thereof</u> authorized by Article 3432, or 3432.1, <u>or 3433</u> shall be full and sufficient authority for the payment <u>of any money</u> or <u>the</u> delivery of any <u>money or</u> property of the deceased described in the affidavit to the heirs or legatees of the deceased and the surviving spouse in community, if any, in the percentages listed <u>therein in the affidavit</u>, by any federally insured depository institution, financial institution, trust company, warehouseman, or other depositary, <u>domestic or foreign corporation</u>, or by any person having <u>such the</u> property in his possession or under his control. <u>Similarly, a multiple original of an affidavit satisfying the requirements of this Article shall be full and sufficient authority for the transfer to the heirs or legatees of the deceased, and surviving spouse in community, if any, or to their assigns, of any stock or registered bonds in the name of the deceased and described in the affidavit, by any domestic or foreign corporation.</u>

B. The receipt of the persons named in the affidavit as heirs or legatees of the deceased, or surviving spouse in community thereof, constitutes a full release and discharge for the payment of money or delivery of property made under in

accordance with the provisions of this Article. Any creditor, heir, legatee, succession representative, or other person whatsoever shall have no right or cause of action against the person paying the money, or delivering the property, or transferring the stock or bonds, under in accordance with the provisions of this Article, on account of such the payment, or delivery, or transfer.

C.(1) A multiple original of the affidavit, to which has been attached a certified copy of the deceased's death certificate, or a certified copy thereof and any required attachments in accordance with Article 3433 shall be recorded in the conveyance records in the office of the clerk of court in of the parish where any immovable property described therein in the affidavit is situated, after at least ninety days have clapsed from the date of the deceased's death. For recordation purposes, a photocopy of the certified death certificate may serve as, and take the place of, the certified copy of the death certificate.

- (2) An affidavit so recorded, or a certified copy thereof, shall be admissible as evidence in any action involving immovable property to which it the affidavit relates or which is affected by the instrument, affidavit and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein in the affidavit, including the relationship to the deceased of the parties recognized as heir, legatee, surviving spouse in community, or usufructuary as the case may be, and of their rights in the immovable property of the deceased.
- (3) An action by a person who claims to be a successor of a deceased person; but who has not been recognized as such in an affidavit authorized by Article 3432 or 3432.1, 3433 to assert an interest in immovable property formerly owned by the deceased; against a third person who has acquired an interest in the property, or against his successors by onerous title, or against his successors, is prescribed two years from the date of the recording of the affidavit and required attachments in accordance with this Paragraph Article.

Comments - 2024

(a) This revision preserves much of existing law and provides that an

1	affidavit executed in accordance with this Chapter is sufficient authorization for a
2	person holding property of the decedent to deliver it in accordance with the affidavit.
3	Moreover, delivery of the property of the decedent in accordance with the affidavit
4	provided in this Chapter protects transferees from claims of third parties in
5	accordance with Paragraph B of this Article.
6	(b) Paragraph C of this Article provides that recordation of the affidavit and
7	the relevant attachments in the conveyance records is required only if immovable
8	property is involved pursuant to Article 3432 or 3433.
9	(c) Analogous to R.S. 9:5630, Subparagraph (C)(3) of this Article limits the
10	rights to immovable property of third persons who claim to be successors of the
11	decedent but who are not recognized in the affidavit.
12	* * *
13	Art. 3443. Sale of succession property; publication of notice of sale
14	$\underline{\mathbf{A}}_{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}$ Notice of the public sale of property, movable or immovable, by the
15	succession representative of a small succession shall be published once and only in
16	the parish where the succession is pending, and the property shall be sold $\underline{\mathbf{no}}$ less
17	than ten days nor more than fifteen days after publication.
18	$\underline{\mathbf{B.}}$ Notice of the application of the succession representative of a small
19	succession to sell succession property, movable or immovable, at private sale shall
20	be published once and only in the parish where the succession proceeding is pending;
21	and shall state that any opposition to the proposed sale must shall be filed within ten
22	days of the date of publication.
23	Comments – 2024
24	This revision does not change the law but makes only minor semantic
25	changes.
26	Section 2. (A) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to print the
27	following Comment to Code of Civil Procedure Article 3441:
28	Comments – 2024
29	The 2024 revision did not affect this Article, which provides that all of the

1 rules applicable to the judicial opening of a succession and its acceptance without 2 administration apply to small succession proceedings. (B) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to print the 3 following Comment to Code of Civil Procedure Article 3442: 4 Comments – 2024 5 The 2024 revision did not affect this Article, which provides that all of the 6 7 rules applicable to the judicial opening of a succession and its rules for sending heirs 8 and legatees into possession apply to small succession proceedings.

> The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Hanna Gettys.

## **DIGEST**

SB 32 Original

2024 Regular Session

Miller

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 3421) defines a small succession as the succession of a person who died leaving property with a gross value of \$125,000 or less and the succession of a person who died testate without leaving immovable property if probate thereof would be the same as if the person died intestate.

Proposed law clarifies present law by retaining the definition of a small succession for a person who dies domiciled in La. leaving property valued at \$125,000 or less and for the ancillary succession of a person who dies domiciled outside of La. leaving property valued at \$125,000 or less.

Proposed law further provides that a small succession may also include the succession of a person who dies testate in La. leaving immovable property valued at \$125,000 or less.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 3422) provides for reduced court costs for small successions.

Proposed law retains the reduction in court costs but eliminates the five-dollar minimum.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 3422.1) provides for small successions when immovable property has been damaged by disaster or catastrophe.

Proposed law retains and reorganizes present law.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 3431) provides that it is not necessary to judicially open a succession in certain circumstances.

Proposed law retains some of present law and additionally provides that it is not necessary to judicially open a succession for a decedent who died testate in La. if the value of property is less than \$125,000, immovable property is not transferred, and all of the persons who would inherit agree to waive probate.

Proposed law further provides that that it is not necessary to judicially open a succession for a decedent who died outside of La. if the value of the property is less than \$125,000 and the testament was probated by a foreign court.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 3432) provides an affidavit procedure for small successions.

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Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains this affidavit procedure for small successions for persons who died intestate and authorizes curators to execute the affidavit on behalf of interdicts.

<u>Present law</u> (C.C.P. Art. 3432.1) provides an affidavit procedure for small successions for persons who died testate.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains this affidavit procedure for small successions for persons who died testate in La. without immovable property. <u>Proposed law</u> eliminates the need for certified copies and authorizes curators to execute the affidavit on behalf of interdicts.

<u>Proposed law</u> (C.C.P. Art. 3433) adds a new affidavit procedure for small successions for persons who died testate outside of La. <u>Proposed law</u> requires the affidavit to include facts relative to the date of death, marital status, residence, names of legatees and heirs, property descriptions, and affirmations along with a copy of the probate order of the other jurisdiction.

<u>Present law</u> (C.C.P. Art. 3434) provides that an endorsed copy of the affidavit provides sufficient authority for the payment of money or the delivery of property.

Proposed law retains present law and makes technical corrections.

<u>Present law</u> (C.C.P. Art. 3443) provides for the sale of succession property with proper notice.

Proposed law retains present law and makes technical corrections.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends C.C.P. Arts. 3421, 3422, 3422.1(B), (C), and (E), 3431, 3432, 3432.1, 3434, and 3443; adds C.C.P. Art. 3433)