

# What happens if someone dies without an estate plan in place?

The following is a chart that depicts what happens to a person's property, according to New York State law, if a person dies without a Last Will and Testament or other estate plan in place.

**Definitions:**

- The deceased person is called a "Decedent."
- "Issue" means the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. that are born in a person's direct biological line or have been legally adopted.

