



## **Instruction letter for completion of an Affidavit of Heirship form**

The purpose of an Affidavit of Heirship is to put the county records on notice for mineral owners who are deceased that did not have probate proceedings administered to their estate. When a search is performed in an area to be developed, the affidavit will tell the title examiner that the mineral owner is deceased and that they need to contact the heirs. This form is used as a tool by oil and gas companies to support a title change.

All of the questions must be completed to the best of the affiant's knowledge. If the person completing the affidavit does not know the answer to a question asked, it should be stated on the affidavit.

If any heirs of the decedent are deceased, a separate Affidavit of Heirship will be required for each heir.

If more space is needed to adequately supply the information requested, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

For complete details on this process, please see the following:

- 1) Have the form filled out by a disinterested third party, someone who is not related by blood or marriage and will not benefit from the estate but knew the decedent and the circumstances surrounding their estate. (Example: Lawyer, Neighbor, Family Friend)
- 2) The affiant must sign the form in front of a notary public.
- 3) Attach a copy of the Death Certificate and the Last Will and Testament (if applicable) to the affidavit.
- 4) Contact the Clerk's office where the property is located for fees and instruction on how to record documents by mail. Phone numbers and addresses for county courthouses can be found at [www.courthousedirect.com](http://www.courthousedirect.com). If you cannot locate the information you need please contact us for assistance.
- 5) Upon receipt of the recorded documentation, mail a COPY to the address listed below.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Hilcorp Owner Relations at 713-209-2457.

### **IMPORTANT**

\* If the decedent left a Will, but said Will was not probated, the laws of Intestate Descent and Distribution will apply, and NOT the terms of the Will.

\* Some states do not accept "foreign" probate. In such cases, the laws of Intestate Descent and Distribution will apply when Ancillary Proceedings are not opened in the state where the property is located.

\* A copy of the Certificate of Death will need to be provided for the decedent, any of the decedent's deceased heirs and/or the decedent's deceased spouse.

\* If the Affidavit of Heirship is completed by an heir, there must be two corroborating, third-party witness statements attached and filed of record along with the affidavit.

AFFIDAVIT OF HEIRSHIP

DECEDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

RE: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_() DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY / PARISH OF \_\_\_\_\_()

\_\_\_\_\_, whose address is \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter referred to as "Affiant," being of lawful age and being duly sworn, upon oath deposes and says that he (she) was well acquainted with \_\_\_\_\_ hereinafter referred to as "the Decedent," and that the answers and statements given in the following questionnaire are based upon Affiant's personal knowledge and are true and correct:

1. How long did you know the Decedent? £ 1-3 years £ Whole life £ Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. How well did you know the Decedent? £ Very well £ Well £ Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was your relationship to the Decedent? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Complete the following sentences: The Decedent's home was at \_\_\_\_\_.  
Decedent died at the age of \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_,  
State of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Did the Decedent leave a will? £ Yes £ No £ I do not know
6. Was there any time during the Decedent's life when the Decedent was not of sound mind?  
£ Yes £ No If Yes, Date(s)\_\_\_\_\_
7. Have any proceedings been commenced with respect to the Decedent's estate? \_\_\_\_\_.  
If so, complete the following sentence to the best of your knowledge: Proceedings were commenced in  
\_\_\_\_\_ County, State of \_\_\_\_\_, and the name and address of the executor or  
administrator is \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are there any debts still owing by the Decedent's estate? £ Yes £ No If Yes, will the size of the estate be  
sufficient in your opinion to pay such debts? £ Yes £ No
9. At the time of death was the Decedent £ Single £ Married £ Divorced £ Widow £ Widower. If married,  
what was the Decedent's surviving husband's or wife's name? \_\_\_\_\_
10. If the Decedent was married at the time of death, what is the surviving husband's or wife's present address or, if deceased,  
when did such surviving husband or wife die? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How many times was the Decedent married? £ None £ Once £ Twice £ Other \_\_\_\_\_
12. What was the total number of Decedent's children, both natural and adopted? \_\_\_\_\_.  
Complete the following table with respect to all children of the Decedent, whether living or dead, natural or adopted:

Name of Child (Natural)	Date of Birth	Child's Other Parent	Present Address or Date of Death
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

13. Were any of Decedent's children adopted? £ Yes £ No If Yes, which ones and when.

Name of Child (Adopted)	When Adopted	Living or Deceased	Address
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

AFFIDAVIT OF HEIRSHIP

14. Complete the following table with respect to all children of every deceased child (if any) of the Decedent:

Name of the Decedent's Deceased Child	Children of the Deceased Child	Date of Birth	Present Address or Date of Death

15. If the Decedent was not survived by any children or grandchildren, then give below the names and addresses of the Decedent's father, mother, and all brothers and sisters:

Name of Relative	Relationship	Age	Present Address or Date of Death

16. If the Decedent was not survived by any children, grandchildren, father, mother, brothers or sisters, then give below the names and addresses of the nearest surviving relatives:

Name	Relationship	Age	Present Address

Additional Remarks:

Affiant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Notary Public Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.