Informal probate proceedings upon the death of a loved one can seem complicated. Understanding the basic procedures (and forms) makes the process less stressful and facilitates a measured administration of the testate or intestate estate of the deceased. Alternatives to informal probate, however, may be available if the decedent’s estate is below certain statutory limits. Requesting court approval of streamlined small estate administration and the use of property transfer affidavits will also be discussed.