

[TO THE PUBLIC: This form is provided by Probate Court Judge Thomas C. Bordeaux, Jr., as a helpful guideline. You may adjust your allegations to your particular circumstances. It is recommended that you review Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 7-1-356.

PROBATE COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
 ) ESTATE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 )  
 DECEASED )

**PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPEN SAFE-DEPOSIT BOX**

The Petition of \_\_\_\_\_, whose physical address is \_\_\_\_\_ and whose mailing address is \_\_\_\_\_, shows the following:

1. (Name of decedent)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Decedent"), who, at the time of death, resided at (address, with county/state)  
\_\_\_\_\_, died on (date).

2. A copy of the following is marked "Exhibit A," attached hereto, and is incorporated herein (initial applicable items):

- \_\_\_ a) copy of Decedent's death certificate; and/or
- \_\_\_ b) copy of Decedent's obituary as published in the county's legal organ (Savannah Morning News), including date of publication.

3. The Probate Court of Chatham County has jurisdiction over the estate of the Decedent in that (initial applicable items):

- \_\_\_ a) Decedent at the time of death was a resident of Chatham County; and/or
- \_\_\_ b) (state reasons)  
\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Petitioner is a properly interested person with standing to seek to inspect Decedent's safe-deposit box for the following reason(s) (*initial all applicable items*):

\_\_\_\_ a) on information and belief, Petitioner is nominated as an executor under a purported Last Will & Testament of Decedent;

\_\_\_\_ b) Petitioner is not only an heir of Decedent, but there is no heir closer to Decedent (as measured by O.C.G.A. § 53-2-1). These are Decedent's next of kin (*state Decedent's next of kin's names and addresses, and relationship to Decedent*): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_ c) Petitioner is related to Decedent in the following ways: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_ d) Other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_;

5. On information and belief, at the time of death, Decedent maintained a safe-deposit box in his/her name at the following financial institution (*state name of institution*):

\_\_\_\_\_, located at the following address: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Petitioner moves this Court** for an order directing any financial institution named above which was contracting with Decedent for the use of a safe-deposit box to permit Petitioner to inspect and inventory the said box, and, if applicable, remove or have removed certain contents of said safe-deposit box, all pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 7-1-356.

THIS \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner's Attorney  
(or of Petitioner, if no attorney)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Petitioner's Attorney  
(or of Petitioner, if no attorney)

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Bar Number (if Petitioner's Attorney)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address - Street or P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address - City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address of Petitioner

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**STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF CHATHAM**

**VERIFICATION**

Personally appeared before me the undersigned petitioner who, after being duly sworn, states that the facts set forth in the foregoing Petition for Authority to Open Safe-Deposit Box and its attached Exhibit(s) are true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Petitioner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name of Petitioner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address - Street or P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address - City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number)

**Sworn to and subscribed before me this**  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC / CLERK OF PROBATE COURT

PROBATE COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
 ) ESTATE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_  
DECEASED )

**ORDER GRANTING AUTHORITY TO OPEN SAFE-DEPOSIT BOX**

\_\_\_\_\_ has petitioned this Court for authority pursuant to O.C.G.A. §7-1-356 to enter and inspect a safe-deposit box which is maintained in the name of \_\_\_\_\_, Deceased, by the financial institution \_\_\_\_\_ at the following address:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

This Court, upon proper presentation, hereby GRANTS the petition and ORDERS the financial institution, \_\_\_\_\_, to permit \_\_\_\_\_ to open and examine, in the presence of an officer of the financial institution, the contents of any safe-deposit box leased by \_\_\_\_\_, the decedent.

If the Petitioner, \_\_\_\_\_, so requests, the financial institution, \_\_\_\_\_, shall deliver:

- (1) any writing purporting to be a will of the decedent: to the Chief Clerk of the Probate Court of Chatham County;
- (2) any writing which purports to give burial instruction or to be a deed to a burial plot: to the Petitioner, \_\_\_\_\_;
- (3) any document which purports to be an insurance policy on the life of the decedent: to the beneficiary named therein.

NO OTHER CONTENTS other than those stated above are to be removed pursuant to this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within five banking days after having been presented with this Order, the financial institution, \_\_\_\_\_, shall permit \_\_\_\_\_, the Petitioner, to

inventory the contents of any safe-deposit box leased by or rented to the decedent, which shall be conducted by the Petitioner in the presence of an officer or employee of the financial institution. The inventory shall then be signed by such persons, stating the capacity in which each signed. The financial institution shall retain a copy thereof. The Petitioner is directed to file the original thereof with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Chatham County.

SO ORDERED, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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THOMAS C. BORDEAUX, JR., JUDGE  
PROBATE COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY

cc: Petitioner's Attorney or  
Petitioner, if *pro se*