

Who Must File?

An Iowa inheritance tax return must be filed for an estate when the gross share, subject to tax without reduction for liabilities, of any beneficiary, heir, transferee, or surviving joint tenant exceeds the allowable exemption from such share or if a federal return has been filed. (See below for deaths on or after July 1, 2004.) The term estate includes property held in trust or otherwise not subject to probate.

Gross Estate

Gross estate includes all those items or interests in property passing by any method of transfer specified in Iowa Code section 450.3.

The return includes schedules listing the assets included in the gross estate, a listing of the liabilities deductible in computing the net estate and a computation of the tax due on each share of the net estate. When Iowa schedules are filed with the return, only those schedules that apply to the particular assets and liabilities of the estate are required. Iowa Schedules A through I may be replaced with the Iowa State Bar Association probate schedules. Department forms must be used for the Iowa inheritance tax return and Schedules J and K.

If the estate has filed a federal estate tax return, a copy must be submitted with the Iowa inheritance tax return. If the federal estate tax return includes the schedules of assets and liabilities, the taxpayer may omit Iowa Schedules A through I from the return.

A return merely listing the assets and their values is not sufficient in estates that exceed \$25,000. Even in nontaxable estates, the section showing computation of shares and tax must be completed before an inheritance tax clearance can be issued.

Effective for estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 2004, an Iowa inheritance tax return should **not** be filed unless the estate has a federal estate tax requirement to file when all assets of decedent pass to:

- a surviving spouse;
- lineal ascendants
- lineal descendants, which includes descendants by adoption;

- stepchildren as defined in Iowa Code section 450.1(1)(e), and their lineal descendants including descendants by adoption (for decedents dying on or after July 1, 2016).

The voluntary election to file a federal estate tax return does not create a requirement to file the IA 706 and a clearance will not be issued.

Each individual should use his or her judgment on whether to file a short form probate inventory with the clerk of the district court, or whether filing a simple affidavit of the death of the joint tenant is sufficient for title purposes. Determination of the kind of filings that are required for title purposes is outside the Department's jurisdiction.

Due Date of the Return

The tax must be paid to the Department on or before the last day of the ninth month after the death of the decedent for estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1984, subject to the due date falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, which would then make the return due on the following business day.

Inheritance Tax Clearance

A full payment clearance will be issued only after the tax, penalty, and interest have been paid in full. Only an original inheritance tax clearance will be issued by the Department.

THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE DOES
NOT ISSUE INHERITANCE TAX
CLEARANCES FOR TAXPAYERS NOT
REQUIRED TO FILE AN INHERITANCE TAX
RETURN.

Third Party Authorization

All correspondence, including inheritance tax clearances, will be mailed to the Executor reported on the IA 706. A copy will be mailed to the Power of Attorney (POA) reported on the IA 706, if a POA is reported.

More information about the Department's Third-Party Authorization procedure is available at revenue.iowa.gov in the Confidentiality, Disclosure, and Authorized Representation section.

Alternate Valuation

Alternate value may be used on the same terms and conditions that govern the alternate valuation for federal estate tax purposes. The alternate value cannot be used for Iowa purposes unless used for federal estate tax purposes and a federal estate tax return is required to be filed, and the amount of federal estate tax owed has been reduced.

In general, the alternate valuation date is the date six months after the decedent's death. If the property is sold within the six-month period, the date of the sale is the alternate date for valuing the property sold.

If the election is made, all of the property included in the gross estate and not just a portion of the property must be valued at the alternate value.

If alternate valuation is elected, the value established for federal estate tax purposes must also be the alternate value for Iowa inheritance tax purposes.

Failure to indicate on line 25 of the inheritance tax return the election of alternate valuation will be construed as a decision not to elect an alternate valuation date.

Special Use Valuation: Real estate that has been valued at its special use value under Internal Revenue Code section 2032A for computing the federal estate tax is eligible to be valued for inheritance tax purposes at its special use value.

Real estate cannot be specially valued for inheritance tax purposes unless it is also eligible and is valued at its special use value for federal estate tax purposes. However, even though real estate is specially valued for federal estate tax purposes, the estate has the right to elect not to value real estate at its special use value for computing the inheritance tax.

The special use value cannot be used for Iowa purposes if it is not eligible for federal estate tax purposes.

The election to specially value real estate under Iowa Code section 450B must be made by the fiduciary for the estate or trust on the inheritance tax return. The election, once made, is irrevocable. Failure to make an election on the inheritance tax return will be

construed as an election not to specially value real estate under Iowa Code section 450B.

A copy of the executed election for federal estate tax purposes must be timely filed with the Iowa Department of Revenue. The agreement must be executed by all parties who have interest in the property to be valued at its special use as of the date of the decedent's death. In the agreement, the qualified heir must consent to be personally liable for the additional inheritance tax imposed in the event of early disposition or cessation of the special use valuation.

A protective election may be made to specially value qualified real property for inheritance tax purposes. The protective election must be made on the inheritance tax return and must contain the same information required by 26 C.F.R. section 20.2032A-8(b).

If a protective election is made and it is found that the real estate qualifies for special use valuation as finally determined for federal estate tax purposes, an additional notice of election must be filed within 60 days after date of determination, along with an amended inheritance tax return. Failure to file the additional notice within 60 days will disqualify the real estate for special use valuation.

Computation of Shares and Tax on Net Estate

Line 6: Beneficiary. List full name and current address of each beneficiary, heir, transferee, or surviving joint tenant.

Age. Report age of the beneficiary, heir, transferee, or surviving joint tenant. The use of "legal" for age is not acceptable.

Social Security Number (SSN). Report the Social Security Number of each beneficiary, heir, transferee, or surviving joint tenant.

Relationship. Report the legal relationship to the decedent for each beneficiary, heir, transferee, or surviving joint tenant.

Share. Report the net share of each beneficiary, heir, transferee, or surviving joint tenant. The net share subject to tax is the gross share, less the portion of allowable deductions that are chargeable to the share under the general order for abatement under Iowa Code section 633.436. Include a copy of the computation of shares.

Line 7: Must equal line 5.

Line 8: Total Inheritance Tax. The tax is computed in accordance with the applicable rate schedule on the net share of each beneficiary, heir, transferee, or surviving joint tenant.

Effective July 1, 2021, for decedents dying on or after January 1, 2021, but before January 1, 2022, the effective tax rates listed in Iowa Code section 450.10(1)-(4) are reduced by 20%. The effective tax rates will be reduced an additional 20% for each of the following three years. For deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2025, no inheritance tax will be imposed.

Line 11: Penalty

Penalties can only be waived under limited circumstances, as described in Iowa Code section 421.27.

Failure to Timely File a Return: If the return is filed after the original due date and less than 90% of the correct amount of tax was paid by the original due date, multiply the unpaid tax by 5% (.05). This penalty is in addition to any penalty for failure to timely pay the tax due, as described below.

Failure to Timely Pay the Tax Due: A penalty of 5% must be added to the tax due if less than 90% of the correct amount of tax was paid by the original due date of the return. Multiply the unpaid tax by 5% (.05). This penalty is in addition to any penalty for failure to timely file, as described above.

Penalty for Willful Failure to File

A penalty of 75% will be added to the tax due for willful failure to file a return or for filing with intent to evade tax.

Line 12: Unpaid tax accrues interest. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 701—10.2(421) for the statutory interest rate.

Line 29: Report total value from Schedule D that would be subject to inheritance tax. Credit life insurance and burial insurance are offsets against the debt and must be reported as taxable. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 701—900.5(6)"c".

Line 32: Report total from Schedule G, parts A and B. Include copies of the federal gift tax returns.

Signature: The return must be signed by at least one of the executors, trustees, administrators, or the joint-tenant.

If completed by a paid preparer, the return must be signed by the preparer. Enter the preparer's SSN, FEIN, or PTIN.

Additional information can be found on the Department's website revenue.iowa.gov.