

fees, consideration must be given to the fact that the property of the decedent is restricted or held in trust and that it is the duty of the Department to protect the rights of all parties in interest.

(b) Nothing herein prevents an attorney from petitioning for additional fees to be considered at the disposition of a petition for rehearing and again after an appeal on the merits. An order allowing an attorney's fees is subject to a petition for rehearing and to an appeal.

§ 4.282 Guardians for incompetents.

Minors and other legal incompetents who are parties in interest must be represented at all hearings by legally appointed guardians, or by guardians ad litem appointed by the OHA deciding official.

TRIBAL PURCHASE OF INTERESTS UNDER SPECIAL STATUTES

SOURCE: 66 FR 67656, Dec. 31, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

§ 4.300 Authority and scope.

(a) The rules and procedures set forth in §§ 4.300 through 4.308 apply only to proceedings in Indian probate which relate to the tribal purchase of a decedent's interests in trust and restricted land as provided by:

(1) The Act of December 31, 1970 (Pub. L. 91-627; 84 Stat. 1874; 25 U.S.C. 607 (1976)), amending section 7 of the Act of August 9, 1946 (60 Stat. 968), with respect to trust or restricted land within the Yakima Reservation or within the area ceded by the Treaty of June 9, 1855 (12 Stat. 1951);

(2) The Act of August 10, 1972 (Pub. L. 92-377; 86 Stat. 530), with respect to trust or restricted land within the Warm Springs Reservation or within the area ceded by the Treaty of June 25, 1855 (12 Stat. 37); and

(3) The Act of September 29, 1972 (Pub. L. 92-443; 86 Stat. 744), with respect to trust or restricted land within the Nez Perce Indian Reservation or within the area ceded by the Treaty of June 11, 1855 (12 Stat. 957).

(b)(1) In the exercise of probate authority, an OHA deciding official will determine:

(i) The entitlement of a tribe to purchase a decedent's interests in trust or restricted land under the statutes;

(ii) The entitlement of a surviving spouse to reserve a life estate in one-half of the surviving spouse's interests which have been purchased by a tribe; and

(iii) The fair market value of such interests, including the value of any life estate reserved by a surviving spouse.

(2) In the determination under paragraph (b)(1) of this section of the entitlement of a tribe to purchase the interests of an heir or devisee, the issues of

(i) Enrollment or refusal of the tribe to enroll a specific individual and

(ii) Specification of blood quantum, where pertinent, will be determined by the official tribal roll which is binding upon the OHA deciding official. For good cause shown, the OHA deciding official may stay the probate proceeding to permit an aggrieved party to pursue an enrollment application, grievance, or appeal through the established procedures applicable to the tribe.

§ 4.301 Valuation report.

(a) In all probates, at the earliest possible stage of the proceeding before issuance of a probate decision, the BIA must furnish a valuation of the decedent's interests when the record reveals to the Superintendent:

(1) That the decedent owned interests in land located on one or more of those reservations designated in § 4.300 and

(2) That any one or more of the probable heirs or devisees, who may become a distributee of such interests upon completion of the probate proceeding, is not enrolled in or does not have the required blood quantum in the tribe of the reservation where the land is located to hold such interests against a claim thereto made by the tribe. If there is a surviving spouse whose interests may be subject to the tribal option, the valuation must include the value of a life estate based on the life of the surviving spouse in one half of such interests. The valuation must be made on the basis of the fair market value of the property, including fixed improvements, as of the date of decedent's death.