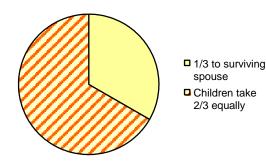
# **Texas Descent and Distribution<sup>1</sup>**

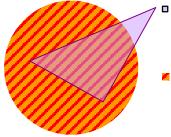
The Legal Effect of Not Having a Will (for decedents dying after 9/1/1993)

# 1. Married Person with Child[ren] or Other Descendants

A. Decedent's separate personal property (all that is not real property) (EC § 201.002(b))

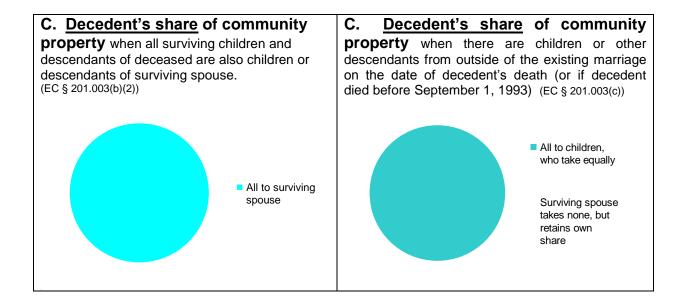


### B. Decedent's separate real property (EC § 201.002(b))



Surviving spouse gets 1/3 life estate

Children take all equally, subject to surviving spouse's 1/3 life estate All separate real property will be owned outright by decedent's child[ren] or other descendants when surviving spouse dies.

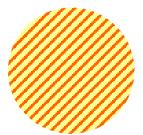


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The charts in this handout illustrate the general rules of descent and distribution under Texas law. In addition to the statutory references noted throughout, see the following Texas Estates Code (EC) provisions, among others: § 201.101, Determination of Per Capita with Representation Distribution (fka per stirpes); § 201.051 et seq., Matters Affecting Inheritance (including Adoption [§ 201.054] and Collateral Kindred of Whole and Half Blood [§ 201.057]); Advancements, §§ 201.151 & 201.152; and Requirement of Survival by 120 Hours, §§ 121.052 & 121.053 (see also §§ 121.151-121.153).

Compliments of Judge Kimberly Sullivan, Galveston County Probate Court

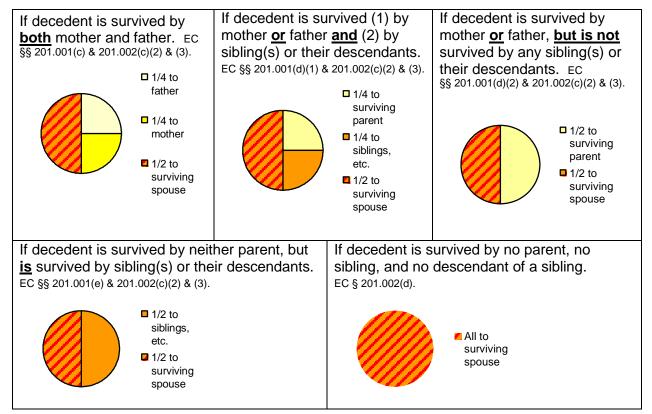
## 2. Married Person with No Child or Descendant

A. Decedent's separate personal property (all that is not real property) (EC § 201.002(c)(1))

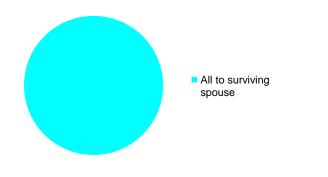


Spouse

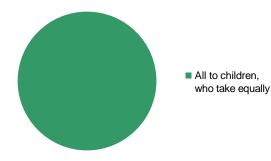
#### **B.** Decedent's separate real property (EC § 201.002)



C. Decedent's share of community property (EC § 201.003(b)(1))

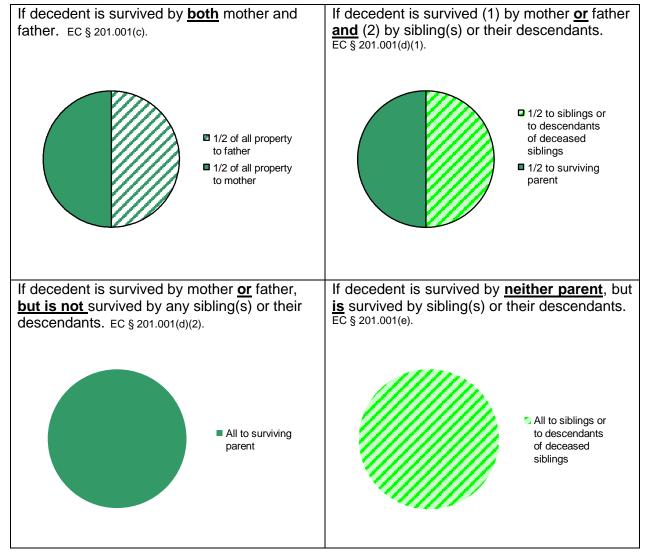


## 3. Unmarried Person with Child[ren] or Other Descendants (EC § 201.001(b))



4. Unmarried Person with No Child or Descendant

# All property passes depending on who survived the decedent:<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> If none of the four situations above applies, see EC § 201.001(f)-(h).