



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 224
[2015 Assembly Bill 218]

**Inheritance by a Parent Who
Abandons a Child**

Under current law, a person who dies without a valid will or estate plan is deemed to have died intestate, and the person's estate is distributed to the person's heirs according to statutory intestate succession procedures. If a minor child who was not married and had no children dies intestate, the parents of the deceased minor child inherit the minor child's estate.

2015 Wisconsin Act 224 prohibits a parent who abandoned a deceased minor child from inheriting the minor child's estate through intestate succession. Under the Act, a parent abandoned a minor child if a court determines that, for at least one year immediately before the minor child's death and without cause, the parent failed to: (1) communicate with the minor child; (2) care for the minor child; and (3) provide for the maintenance and support of the minor child.

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Prepared by: Rachel E. Snyder, Staff Attorney

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RES:mcm;ksm

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.