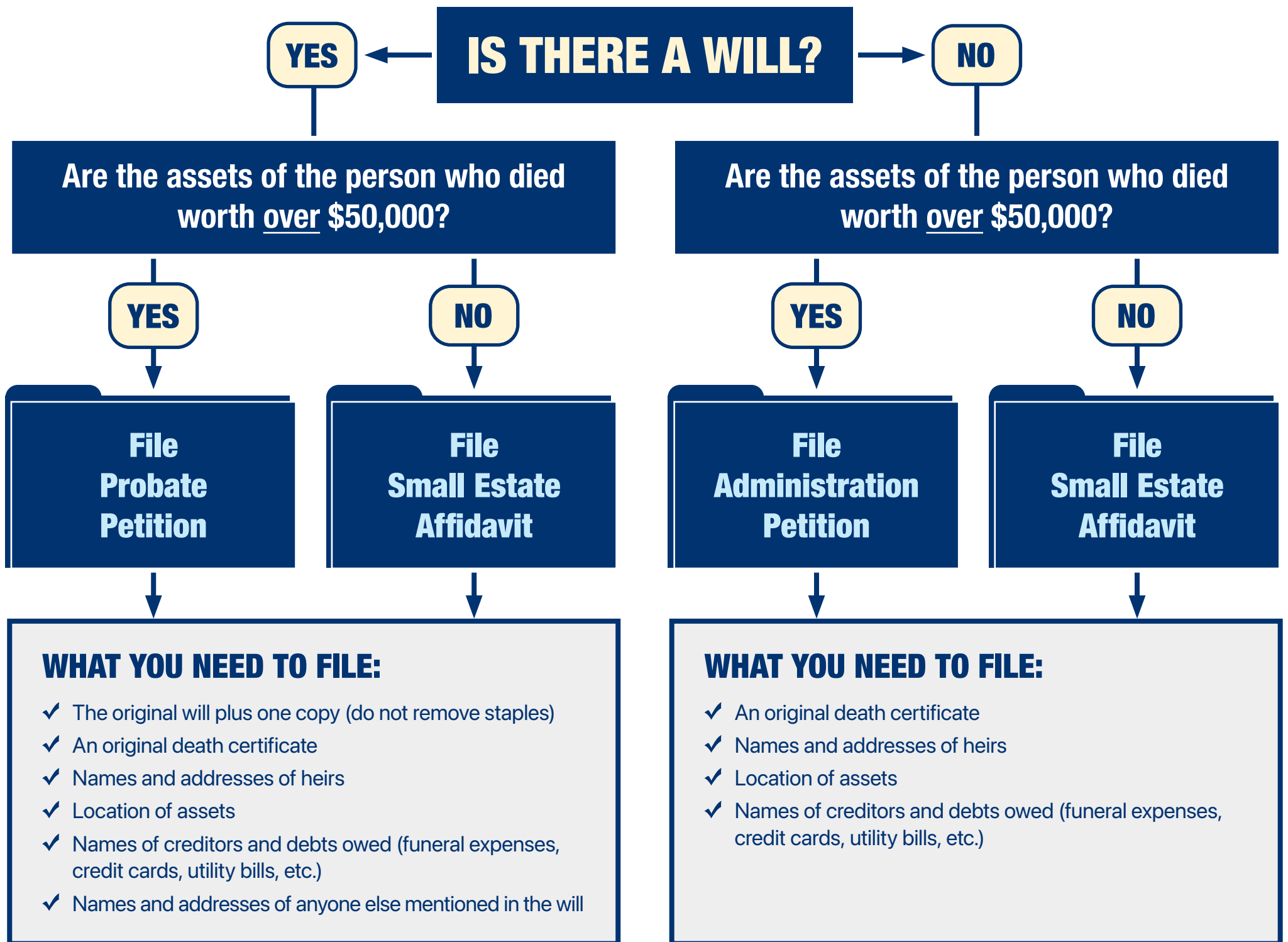




# Welcome to **SURROGATE'S COURT**

In New York State, when a person dies it is important to know if they have a will.  
This information will help you understand what to do next.



## **WHAT ARE ASSETS?**

### **ASSETS INCLUDE:**

- ✓ Bank and investment accounts
- ✓ Insurance policies
- ✓ Cars, boats, other vehicles
- ✓ Real Estate
- ✓ Contents of a safe deposit box
- ✓ Personal property in the possession of the police
- ✓ Contents of the sealed residence of the person who died

### **DO NOT INCLUDE:**

- ✗ The value of accounts or assets that are owned by the person who died AND another person
- ✗ Accounts or assets that have a named beneficiary

## **WHO IS AN HEIR?**

### **YOU NEED THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF HEIRS. HEIRS ARE:**

- 1 The spouse, children, and sometimes grandchildren of person who died (the decedent)
- 2 If the decedent does not have a husband or wife, children, or grandchildren, the heirs are the decedent's parents
- 3 If the decedent's parents are no longer living, the heirs are the decedent's brothers and sisters
- 4 If the decedent's brothers and sisters are no longer living, the heirs are the decedent's nieces and nephews
- 5 If no listed family members are living, then the heirs are the decedent's aunts and uncles

Please note: Heirs may also be called distributees