

Office of the Secretary, Interior

§ 30.262

(2) Petitions for allowance of fees must be filed before the close of the last hearing.

(b) Nothing in this section 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 attorney fees is subject to a petition for rehearing and to an appeal.

§ 30.253 How must minors or other legal incompetents be represented?

Minors and other legal incompetents who are interested parties must be rep-

resented by legally appointed guardians, or by guardians ad litem appointed by the judge. In appropriate cases, the judge may order the payment of fees to the guardian ad litem from the assets of the estate.

§ 30.254 What happens when a person dies without a valid will and has no heirs?

The judge will determine whether a person with trust or restricted property died intestate and without heirs, and the judge will determine whether 25 U.S.C. 2206(a) applies, as shown in the following table.

If . . .	Then . . .	Or . . .
(a) 25 U.S.C. 2206(a) applies.	The judge will order distribution of the property under § 2206(a)(2)(B)(v) through (a)(2)(C).	The judge will order distribution of the property under § 2206(a)(2)(D)(iii)(IV) through (V).
(b) 25 U.S.C. 2206(a) does not apply.	If the trust or restricted property is not on the public domain, the judge will order the escheat of the property under 25 U.S.C. 373a.	If the trust or restricted property is on the public domain, the judge will order the escheat of the property under 25 U.S.C. 373b.

Subpart L—Tribal Purchase of Interests Under Special Statutes

§ 30.260 What land is subject to a tribal purchase option at probate?

Sections 30.260 through 30.274 apply to formal Indian probate proceedings

that relate to the tribal purchase of a decedent's interests in trust and restricted land under the statutes shown in the following table.

Location of trust or restricted land	Statutes governing purchase
(a) Yakima Reservation or within the area ceded by the Treaty of June 9, 1855 (12 Stat. 1951).	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).
(b) Warm Springs Reservation or within the area ceded by the Treaty of June 25, 1855 (12 Stat. 37).	The Act of August 10, 1972 (Pub. L. 92–377; 86 Stat. 530).
(c) Nez Perce Indian Reservation or within the area ceded by the Treaty of June 11, 1855 (12 Stat. 957).	The Act of September 29, 1972 (Pub. L. 92–443; 86 Stat. 744).

§ 30.261 How does a tribe exercise its statutory option to purchase?

(a) To exercise its option to purchase, the tribe must file with the agency:

(1) A written notice of purchase; and
(2) A certification that the tribe has mailed copies of the notice on the same date to the judge and to the affected heirs or devisees.

(b) A tribe may purchase all or part of the available interests specified in the probate decision. A tribe may not, however, claim an interest less than decedent's total interest in any one individual tract.

§ 30.262 When may a tribe exercise its statutory option to purchase?

(a) A tribe may exercise its statutory option to purchase:

(1) Within 60 days after mailing of the probate decision unless a petition for rehearing has been filed under § 30.238 or a demand for hearing has been filed under § 30.268; or

(2) If a petition for rehearing or a demand for hearing has been filed, within 20 days after the date of the decision on

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rehearing or hearing, whichever is applicable, provided the decision on rehearing or hearing is favorable to the tribe.

(b) On failure to timely file a notice of purchase, the right to distribution of all unclaimed interests will accrue to the heirs or devisees.

[73 FR 67289, Nov. 13, 2008, as amended at 76 FR 7508, Feb. 10, 2011]

§ 30.263 May a surviving spouse reserve a life estate when a tribe exercises its statutory option to purchase?

Yes. When the heir or devisee whose interests are subject to the tribal purchase option is a surviving spouse, the spouse may reserve a life estate in one-half of the interests.

(a) To reserve a life estate, the spouse must, within 30 days after the tribe has exercised its option to purchase the interest, file with the agency both:

(1) A written notice to reserve a life estate; and

(2) A certification that copies of the notice have been mailed on the same date to the judge and the tribe.

(b) Failure to file the notice on time, as required by paragraph (a)(1) of this section, constitutes a waiver of the option to reserve a life estate.

§ 30.264 When must BIA furnish a valuation of a decedent's interests?

(a) BIA must furnish a valuation report of the decedent's interests when the record reveals to the agency:

(1) That the decedent owned interests in land located on one or more of the reservations designated in § 30.260; and

(2) That one or more of the probable heirs or devisees who may receive the interests either:

(i) Is not enrolled in the tribe of the reservation where the land is located; or

(ii) Does not have the required blood quantum in the tribe to hold the interests against a claim made by the tribe.

(b) When required by paragraph (a) of this section, BIA must furnish a valuation report in the probate file when it is submitted to OHA. Interested parties may examine and copy, at their expense, the valuation report at the agency.

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(c) The valuation must be made on the basis of the fair market value of the property, as of the date of decedent's death.

(d) If there is a surviving spouse whose interests may be subject to the tribal purchase 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.

§ 30.265 What determinations will a judge make with respect to a tribal purchase option?

(a) If a tribe files a written notice of purchase under § 30.261(a), a judge will determine:

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

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

(3) The fair market value of such interests, as determined by an appraisal or other valuation method developed by the Secretary under 25 U.S.C. 2214, including the value of any life estate reserved by a surviving spouse.

(b) In making a determination under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the following issues will be determined by the official tribal roll, which is binding on the judge:

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

(2) Specification of blood quantum, where pertinent.

(c) For good cause shown, the judge may stay the probate proceeding to permit an interested party who is adversely affected to pursue an enrollment application, grievance, or appeal through the established procedures applicable to the tribe.

§ 30.266 When is a final decision issued?

This section applies when a decedent is shown to have owned land interests in any one or more of the reservations designated in § 30.260.

(a) The probate proceeding relative to the determination of heirs, approval or disapproval of a will, and the claims of creditors must first be concluded as