

**THE SENECA NATION OF INDIANS
SURROGATE'S COURT – ALLEGANY/CATTARAUGUS TERRITORY**

**Estate Distribution by Seneca Nation Customs and Traditions ("Ten Day Feast")
Form**

***Note:** It is acknowledged that the date of the estate distribution by Seneca Nation customs and traditions differs in Nation Territories. In Allegany, the distribution occurs twelve (12) days after the decedent's death; and in Cattaraugus, the distribution occurs ten (10) days after the decedent's death. To simplify this Form, we refer to the distribution in both Territories as the "Ten Day Feast".*

For estate distributed at the Ten Day Feast the Family Representative that instructed the Speakers shall be considered the Administrator.

This form may be completed by the Family Representative/Administrator that instructed the Speaker if the decedent died intestate or the Executor if the decedent left a valid will.

PART A: DECEDENT INFORMATION

1. Name of the decedent: _____
2. Date of birth of the decedent: _____
3. Tribal Roll number of decedent: _____
4. Date of death of the decedent: _____
5. Did the decedent own "real property" (an interest in land or in buildings attached to the land) on Nation Territory? Yes No

PART B: FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE/ADMINISTRATOR INFORMATION

6. Name of Family Representative/Administrator that instructed the Speaker at the Ten Day Feast?

7. What is the relationship of the Family Representative/Administrator to the decedent?

8. What is your name? _____
9. What is your address and phone number? _____

10. What is your relationship to the decedent? Please check one of the following:

___ Family Representative/Administrator; or ___ Executor

PART C: ESTATE DISTRIBUTION

11. Name of Speaker responsible for the Ten Day Feast: _____

12. Date of Ten Day Feast: _____

13. Did the decedent leave a valid will? ___ Yes ___ No

14. If there is a will, who is the named Executor?

15. If there is a valid will, was the estate distributed according to the will's instructions at the Ten Day Feast?

PART D: TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY

16. Did the Speaker identify real property (land or building(s)) on Nation Territory that is to be transferred? If not, you may skip this section.

___ Yes ___ No

17. If so, name of the person(s) real property is be transferred to:

18. What is the legal description of the real property to be transferred?

19. Other than the decedent, is anyone else's name currently on title for the real property that is to be transferred?

___ Yes ___ No

20. Is the proposed person(s) to receive the real property an enrolled Seneca citizen?

___ Yes ___ No

21. What is the Tribal Roll Number(s) of the proposed person(s) to receive the real property?

PART E: SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

22. Did the decedent give special instructions regarding his or her personal or real property? i.e. youngest daughter or youngest son to inherit real property. If not, you may skip this section.

___ Yes ___ No

23. If so, were these instructions given to the Speaker and announced at the Ten Day Feast?

___ Yes ___ No

24. Please describe below the special instructions given by the decedent regarding his or her personal or real property.

PART F: RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

25. If an estate was distributed by customs and traditions and a dispute arises, the parties must first approach the Longhouse to resolve the dispute. If the Longhouse has been unable to resolve the dispute within eight (8) months of the decedent's death, the Surrogate's Court must resolve the dispute within one (1) year of the decedent's death.

DATED this ___ day of _____, 20__.

SIGNED

In the presence of:

Signature of Witness

Signature of Family Representative
or Executor