**Tribal Court Creates Probate Self-Help Guide**

The passing of a loved person is a sad and difficult experience. Following the passing, there are the tasks of sorting out and distributing the person’s property. Certain kinds of property and assets must go through the legal process of probate before distribution. Even if the person did not have a will, he or she may still have an estate that must be probated. The process of probating an estate can seem daunting. The Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction wants to make the process as easy as possible. In order to assist Mille Lacs Band members with the probate process, the Tribal Court has developed “A Guide to Probate in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Court of Central Jurisdiction for Self-Represented Persons.” The new self-help guide reflects Mille Lacs Band cultural practices and considers the unique nature of Band member interests in homes, land, and leases. It contains helpful references to newly developed simplified court forms and a checklist for the person who starts the probate process. The court staff cannot provide legal advice, but the Guide and new forms can help get the probate process started. If the probate will be uncontested, enrolled Band members may be eligible for legal assistance from Band Member Legal Aid who can be reached at (320) 532-7798. Copies of the probate guide and court forms can be found at the Court Clerk’s office in the Government Center or on the Court’s web page here: https://www.millelacsband.com/services/tribal-court.