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**WE
UNCOVER
LEGACIES**

WE UNCOVER LEGACIES

Dear Heir,

To be contacted by a probate research company is not an everyday occurrence. The initial moment of surprise is usually followed by a multitude of questions. With this brochure we would like to answer the most common inquiries and provide you with some insight to our work.

Since 2003, Erben-Ermittlung Emrich has been assisting probate courts, probate administrators, and notary publics in Germany and around the world with finding the rightful heirs to estates.

Not everyone leaves behind close family members who are entitled to inherit. Aside from the decedent's personal relationships, there are several possible reasons for this. Many families were torn apart as a consequence of World War II; relatives lost contact with each other when they were forced to flee their homes. It could also be the result of immigration, a lot of which took place at the beginning of the 20th century. Likewise, it could be the outcome of our current global trend of movement. Whatever your family history may be: you have been sought after, and we were successfully able to locate you.

You are an heir and, in most cases, part of a community of heirs consisting of several people. As such, you are also a participant in the probate procedure. We are here to assist you during this process — from the application for the certificate of inheritance, up to the distribution of your share of the inheritance. We place significant value on transparency, and pledge to be a reliable partner. We are delighted to have found you and look forward to guiding you through the probate process.

Sincerely,
Thomas Emrich



THOMAS EMRICH
Managing director



OUR STANDARD: SECURE AND TRANSPARENT

When we take on an estate matter we work at our own risk, covering all costs that ensue during the process. We only receive our fee once the inheritance is successfully distributed. The fee is previously agreed upon via contract with the heir presumptive.

We place extra emphasis on clarity and will keep you informed every step of the way, from the initial research to the application for the certificate of inheritance, and finally the settlement of the estate.

Our team consists of more than 100 employees — competent and experienced attorneys, historians and genealogists. They are experts in their field and work quickly, precisely, and transparently to uphold our high quality standards.



OUR WORK: PROFESSIONAL AND CONSISTENT

Distribution of the Inheritance

5 Your Share Is Transferred Into Your Bank Account

4 Estate Settlement

- final accounting of the estate assets
- calculation of inheritance tax
- expert liquidation of real estate and personal effects
- merging and closure of the decedent's accounts

3 Certificate of Inheritance Application

- accompanying the probate proceedings up to the issuance of the certificate of inheritance by the probate court
- preparing the application, including the assembled family tree, for certification by a notary public or a German consulate official

2 Documentation

- collecting all legally relevant documents to prove the heir's claim to the estate before the probate court
- acquisition of pertinent vital records and/or alternative proof of succession

1 Research

- drafting a complete family tree of kin in Germany and abroad
- identifying all potential heirs
- direct assignment by the probate court or an appointed administrator of the estate; research conducted of our own initiative

Contacting Heirs

Erben-Ermittlung Emrich Takes On A Case

HERE FOR YOU: OUR TEAM

THE HEART OF OUR COMPANY. OUR RESEARCH TEAM

The research team works closely with our international department to efficiently and resolutely investigate both German and foreign inheritance matters. We employ all available online resources, archives, and an international network of correspondents to reliably locate heirs.

IN SERVICE OF EVIDENCE. OUR DOCUMENTATION TEAM

The task of the documentation department is to prove the lineage of the heirs we identified. To do so, they acquire all necessary vital records from the relevant authorities, archives, and courts. If any given document has not survived the past decades (or even centuries), or if the family tree extends to a period before vital records were officially maintained, our team of experts will find alternative proof to document your claim to the estate.

LEGALLY COMPETENT. OUR CERTIFICATE OF INHERITANCE TEAM

The certificate of inheritance department verifies all collected documentation and prepares the certificate of inheritance application for authorization by a notary public. The process is consistently monitored in cooperation with our attorneys until the certificate of inheritance is issued by the probate court. Our team works closely together with and under the guidance of our legal department.

CAREFUL AND EFFICIENT. OUR ESTATE SETTLEMENT TEAM

Once the certificate of inheritance has been issued, it is the job of the estate settlement department to collect the inheritance and distribute it to the heirs. Their work includes closing the decedent's accounts, preparing the inheritance tax application with our accountant, valuing and liquidating assets and real estate, and cooperating with attorneys and notaries in preparation of the estate settlement.



Nadine Jaser
Head of Information and
Intelligence Management



Holger Ludloff
Head of the Berlin Research Team



Christian Pförtner
Head of the Documentation
Department



Verena Steffens
Head of Legal Department



Manuela Schmidt
Head of the Estate Settlement
Department



Claudia Hässler
Head of the International
Department



Karoline Kouril
Archive Coordinator



Mélissande Döhler
Coordinator of Israel Branch Office

YOUR QUESTIONS, OUR ANSWERS

HOW DO WE RECEIVE THE ASSIGNMENT TO LOOK FOR AN HEIR?

Either we are assigned by the probate court, the administrator of the estate or an heir, or we begin research of our own initiative.

WHO LEFT BEHIND THE ESTATE?

Typically, the decedent is a relative who died without a will or last testament. As stipulated by the German laws of inheritance, the heir need not be a close relative of the decedent. In many cases, the heir presumptive did not personally know the decedent.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS THE ESTATE MATTER IN PERSON?

We welcome you to visit our office in Berlin, or any of our branches located throughout Germany. If a member of our team is located near you, they can arrange a visit to or near your home. Please, do not hesitate to contact us to inquire about a face-to-face meeting.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM NOT ELIGIBLE TO INHERIT AFTER ALL?

If at any time during the probate process it is determined that you are not eligible to inherit, you will have no financial obligations whatsoever. As you are no longer to receive a share of the estate, we are not entitled to receive the sum of the fee.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT I WILL INHERIT DEBTS?

It is in our own best interest to evaluate the value of the estate before we begin our investigations. We do not handle insolvent estates.

DO I HAVE TO MAKE PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE?

No. We assume all risk and work on your behalf without receiving any payments in advance.

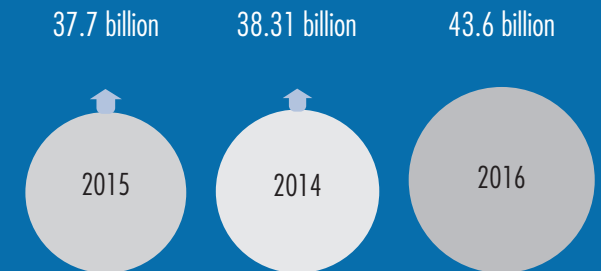
HOW IS OUR WORK RECOMPENSED?

We work on the basis of a contingency fee which is calculated in accordance with the scope and effort of our research. Unless otherwise agreed, the fee, plus the statutory value-added tax, will cover all past and future costs, along with fees incurred for establishing your claim to the estate; this includes all legal, accounting, and notary fees. The agreed contingency fee is only paid if and when your share of the inheritance is disbursed to you. Furthermore, the fee is recognized by the tax authorities as debts accrued to the heir, thus reducing the inheritance tax.

ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR CALL OR EMAIL.

INHERITED WEALTH IN GERMANY



Federal Statistics Office (Destatis), 2017
Inheritance and Gift Tax Statistics 2016

Survey of taxable acquisitions due to death, gifts, special-purpose allocations and foundation assets, and of the applied tax, the tax bracket, the estate assets, the liabilities of the estate and the net estate.

 **WE UNCOVER
LEGACIES**

RECEIVING WHAT IS LEGALLY YOURS



CONTACT

Your contact person, including details of how to reach them, can be found in the enclosed letter.

For general inquiries you can reach our headquarters at:

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