

BOOK REVIEW: **The Settlement Game—** **How To Settle An Estate Peacefully and Fairly**

Author: Angie Epting Morris — *Reviewed by Anita Finley*

The word “game” is exactly what settling an estate can be. There are adversaries and others who have their own opinion. But it doesn’t have to be that way, says author, Angie Epting Morris. In her book, *The Settlement Game*, she developed a straightforward and fair method for dividing her parents’ estate that has come to be known as “The Settlement Game.” That is why she wrote this book—to help others in the same situation.

Probably everyone who is reading this review is shaking their head saying if only I had done this or if only I had known that, things would’ve been different. Dividing an estate brings up many major issues such as what to do about unredeemed life insurance policies and other loose ends, but mainly how to divide in an equitable manner, the furniture and personal property of an estate—what is named in most wills as “... and all other property to be divided equally

among my heirs.” While that may sound easy, in fact very few people know how to do it. Because of this, an event that should be dedicated to remembering good times and paying honor to the deceased often becomes a time of strife and divisiveness, resulting in bad feelings that can sometimes last a lifetime.

The Settlement Game contains practical advice for a trying time. You’ve either heard about or have been a part of a horror story or two. This book has clear, useful advice about how to divide the family estate of deceased parents in a peaceful and fair manner. It is an excellent source of information to give your children to help them avoid conflict with siblings when settling your estate someday.

There are 3 ground rules for dividing up a loved one’s estate:

1. Determine the players. Only the immediate heirs of the deceased should be involved. Others such as spouses, grandchildren, in-laws, etc. should not be involved.

2. Commit to a common goal of achieving a peaceful and fair settlement.

3. Agree not to remove anything from the premises until it can be run through The Settlement Game.

Angie Epting Morris grew up hearing stories from her father, an attorney, of how families interacted when dividing up the valuables of the deceased. Faced

with settling the estate of her parents, she became her own story, with a happy ending. Settling the estate, Morris and her siblings became better friends. After ten years of helping others do the same, receiving countless stories of praise and gratitude

for the enlightening advice, Morris concluded that her advice would help many others facing similar circumstances. She hopes that her book will help others achieve a peaceful estate settlement, thereby protecting family relationships and helping families avoid conflict.

If you are facing an estate settlement (and you are, whether you want to admit it or not), find the “3 Causes of Conflict in an Estate Settlement and What to do About Them” at the author’s website: www.thesettlementgame.com.

*You can purchase *The Settlement Game* at the above website, or order from bookstores, also by calling toll-free: 1-800-247-6553, Paperback edition \$14.95. Published by Voyages Press, Inc.*

