

# Transferring Cherished Possessions

## LESSON 1: WHERE DO I START?

### MYSTERY MEMORABILIA VIGNETTE

Julia (40) is the only child of William, a widower (65) who fell while cleaning the house and passed away soon after because of his injuries. After a month of grieving the sudden loss of her father, Julia had the courage to clean out her family home. While going through the house, she found many items, including a chest full of WWII war memorabilia (among everyday household items that had accumulated over the years). Feeling overwhelmed by not knowing how to distribute these personal possessions, Julia contacted her father's only siblings, Sam and Emily. She asked them to select things they'd like to have and to help her distribute or discard the contents of the estate. Everything went smoothly until the chest full of war memorabilia was up for discussion. The siblings had different opinions. Sam thought William had wanted them to be donated to a local school, but Emily said William had promised her the treasure chest for her grandkids.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Julia is the appointed executor of William's estate.
- William's cherished possessions had not been inventoried.

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#### ACTIVITY:

If you were called in as a mediator, what would you do with the war memorabilia and why?

What goals might Julia, Sam, and Emily have for the distribution of the war memorabilia?

What other factors might affect the decision(s) being made by this family?