

# Transferring Cherished Possessions

## LESSON 2: WHAT IS FAIR?

### BELOVED BRACELET VIGNETTE

Lauren (72), a widow, has 2 children: Erin (40) and Ruth (38). Lauren passed away suddenly after an accident. While settling the estate, Ruth discovered that Erin had taken all of Lauren's jewelry from their family home. While she was living, Lauren had promised the bracelet she wore every day to Ruth, who had always admired it. However, Lauren never put that in writing. Among the jewelry Erin removed was several other pieces of sentimental jewelry. Ruth also raised concerns about Erin removing things without including her.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Erin, the oldest daughter, is the appointed executor of Lauren's estate.
- The mother's jewelry and other valuable possessions had not been inventoried.

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#### ACTIVITY:

Is Erin in the wrong for removing items without consulting Ruth? Why or why not?

What might "fair" distribution look like for these sisters?

Should "fair" distribution change if some cherished possessions have more monetary value than others?