

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?

We will all be gathering with family again soon. Do you have that one item in your family that everyone knows about? Maybe it's something that cherishes a lot of memories for many. Who gets grandma's yellow pie plate or grandpa's gun when they down size or are gone?

The transfer of non-titled personal property, such as photographs and other family heirlooms, often creates more challenges among family members than the transfer of titled property. The experiences of families, estate executors, and attorneys suggest that it is most often the non-titled property that is a source of family conflict during inheritance. It is not the money or titled possessions.

Research has identified six key factors to consider as you plan to transfer your own personal property or work with family members or legal representatives to plan the transfer of property of someone who has already died.

- **Understand the sensitivity of the issue of transferring non-titled property**
- **Determine what you want to accomplish in the transfer**
- **Decide what is "fair" in the context of your family**
- **Understand that belongings have different meanings for different individuals**
- **Consider distribution options and consequences**
- **And finally, agree to manage conflicts if they arise**

Starting this conversation now rather than making decisions after a loved one has passed often decreases conflict. Lack of communication, different attitudes, beliefs or values, different expectations about roles, and prior unresolved conflicts are sources of conflict with personal possessions.

- **Remember to listen**
- **Communicate and be transparent in words and actions**
- **Agree to disagree**
- **Negotiate and compromise**
- **Forgive, repair relationships**

- **Involve mediators or third parties**

Maybe this holiday of gathering, you can start the conversation by asking your loved ones ‘what are the “pie plates” in our family and why’?

If you are looking for more assistance, the publication *Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate: A Guide to Passing on Personal Belongings Workbook*; by Marlene Stum, Ph.D., Family Economics & Gerontology, University of Minnesota, will help. Access the online version at www.yellowpieplate.umn.edu or contact Tara Solomon-Smith, Adult Development Agent at tsolomon@ksu.edu, or by calling 620-378-2167.

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