

Legal Next of Kin Order of Precedence

According to the State of Maine, "Next of kin" means a person having the following relationship to the subject, in the following order of priority:

1. The spouse;
2. A domestic partner. For Next of Kin purposes, "domestic partner" means the partner of the subject who:
 - (a) Is a mentally competent adult;
 - (b) Had been legally domiciled with the subject for at least 12 months immediately preceding the death of the subject;
 - (c) Is not legally married to or legally separated from another individual;
 - (d) Was the sole partner of the subject; and
 - (e) Was jointly responsible with the subject for each other's common welfare as evidenced by joint living arrangements, joint financial arrangements or joint ownership of real or personal property;
3. An adult son or daughter;
4. A parent;
5. An adult brother or sister;
6. An adult grandchild;
7. An adult niece or nephew who is the child of a brother or sister;
8. A maternal grandparent;
9. A paternal grandparent;
10. An adult aunt or uncle;
11. An adult first cousin;
12. Any other adult relative in descending order of blood relationship

Additional information can be obtained at

<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/22/title22sec2843-A.html>