STANDARD NO. 702

PROBLEM:

Should ancillary proceedings be required in order for non-resident testamentary trustees, executors, administrators or personal representatives of a non-resident decedent effectively to convey, mortgage, or foreclose a mortgage of Maine real estate?

RECOMMENDATION:

A. Yes, for instruments dated prior to January 1, 1981.

B. No, for instruments dated on or after September 1, 2019, provided that there is compliance with 18-C M.R.S. §4-204; and for instruments between January 1, 1981 and August 31, 2019, provided that there is compliance with 18-A M.R.S. §4-204, repealed September 1, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

A. Prior to December 31, 1980, foreign testamentary trustees or personal representatives had no power with respect to Maine real estate to convey, mortgage or foreclose without appropriate ancillary proceedings.

B. Upon the adoption of the Uniform Probate Code, a foreign executor, administrator or personal representative may act upon Maine real estate after complying with the requirements of 18-C M.R.S. §4-204, effective September 1, 2019, or the former 18-A M.R.S. §4-204, which was repealed and replaced effective September 1, 2019. A non-resident testamentary trustee (unless a foreign corporation otherwise doing business in this state) is not required to qualify in Maine in order to permit the trustee to act upon Maine real estate. See 18-C M.R.S. §7-103, effective September 1, 2019, and the former 18-A M.R.S. §7-105 (§§7-101 through 7-105, with §§7-101 through §§7-104 repealed effective July 1, 2005).

First adopted August 25, 1960; amended June 19, 1975, December 7, 1983 and January 30, 2020. Formerly Title Standard No. 17.