

# Revocable Transfer on Death (TOD) Deed

California law allows for Revocable Transfer on Death (TOD) Deeds (sometimes referred to as "TODD" or "RTDD") to pass the property directly to a beneficiary (named grantee) without probate upon the death of the owner. Its main purpose is to provide an affordable alternative to traditional estate planning. The TOD does not affect any ownership rights during the lifetime of the transferor and does not convey any immediate rights to the transferee beneficiary.

The deed is effective only where the transferor dies on or after January 1, 2016, even if the deed was executed and recorded before the effective date. No TOD may be executed or recorded after January 1, 2032, unless the California Legislature elects to extend this legislation.

The TOD must substantially comply with the statutory form set forth in Probate Code Section 5642. This code section also addresses common questions regarding TOD, some of these are:



## **What does the TOD Deed do?**

When you die, the identified property will transfer to your named beneficiary without probate. The TOD deed has no effect until you die. You can revoke it at any time. Due to Proposition 19, a TOD deed can be used to pass real estate to children if the property is worth less than \$1 million and the child(ren) intend(s) to make the property their primary residence.

## **Can I use this deed to transfer business property?**

This deed can only be used to transfer (1) a parcel of property that contains one to four residential dwelling units, (2) a condominium unit, or (3) a parcel of agricultural land of 40 acres or less, which contains a single-family residence

## **Can I revoke the TOD Deed if I change my mind?**

Yes. You may revoke the TOD deed at any time. No one, including your beneficiary, can prevent you from revoking the deed.

## **How do I revoke the TOD Deed?**

There are three ways to revoke a recorded TOD deed:

- (1) Complete, have notarized, and RECORD a revocation form.
- (2) Create, have notarized, and RECORD a new TOD deed.
- (3) Sell or give away the property, or transfer it to a trust, before your death and RECORD the deed. A TOD deed can only affect property that you own when you die. A TOD deed cannot be revoked by will.

## **Can I revoke a TOD Deed by creating a new document that disposes of the property (for example, by creating a new TOD Deed or by assigning the property to a trust)?**

Yes, but only if the new document is RECORDED. To avoid any doubt, you may want to RECORD a TOD deed revocation form before creating the new instrument. A TOD deed cannot be revoked by will, or by purporting to leave the subject property to anyone via will.

## **If I sell or give away the property described in a TOD Deed, what happens when I die?**

If the deed or other document used to transfer your property is RECORDED before your death, the TOD deed will have no effect. If the transfer document is not RECORDED before your death, the TOD deed will take effect.

Continued...

**I am being pressured to complete this form. What should I do?**

Do NOT complete this form unless you freely choose to do so. If you are being pressured to dispose of your property in a way that you do not want, you may want to alert a family member, friend, the district attorney, or a senior service agency.

**Do I need to tell my beneficiary about the TOD Deed?**

No. But secrecy can cause later complications and might make it easier for others to commit fraud.

**What does my beneficiary need to do when I die?**

Your beneficiary must RECORD evidence of your death (Prob. Code § 210), and file a change in ownership notice (Rev. & Tax. Code § 480). If you received Medi-Cal benefits, your beneficiary must notify the State Department of Health Care Services of your death and provide a copy of your death certificate (Prob. Code § 215).

**What if I share ownership of the property?**

This form only transfers YOUR share of the property. If a co-owner also wants to name a TOD beneficiary, that co-owner must complete and RECORD a separate form.

**What is the effect of a TOD Deed on property that I own as joint tenancy or community property with right of survivorship?**

If you are the first joint tenant or spouse to die, the deed is VOID and has no effect. The property transfers to your joint tenant or surviving spouse and not according to this deed. If you are the last joint tenant or spouse to die, the deed takes effect and controls the ownership of your property when you die. If you do not want these results, do not use this form. The deed does NOT transfer the share of a co-owner of the property. Any co-owner who wants to name a TOD beneficiary must complete and RECORD a SEPARATE deed.

**Can I add other conditions on the form?**

No. If you do, your beneficiary may need to go to court to clear title.

**NOTE:** Title companies are not required to rely on TODs when underwriting a policy of title insurance under the new law—an especially important detail given that there may be circumstances under which the TOD may be void or superseded by another document. A probate proceeding or quitclaim deed may be required as a condition of issuing a policy of title insurance.



**SIMPLE REVOCABLE TRANSFER ON DEATH (TOD) DEED**  
(California Probate Code Section 5642)

RECORDING REQUESTED BY \_\_\_\_\_

AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL DOCUMENT AND TAX STATEMENT TO \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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TITLE COVER NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DEED NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDERS USE ONLY

**REVOCABLE TRANSFER ON DEATH (TOD) DEED**  
(California Probate Code Section 5642)

**ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
This document is exempt from documentary transfer tax under Revenue & Taxation Code 11930. This document is exempt from preliminary change of ownership report under Revenue & Taxation Code 480.3.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: THIS DEED MUST BE RECORDED ON OR BEFORE 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE IT IS NOTARIZED.** Use this deed to transfer the residential property described below directly to your named beneficiaries when you die. YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY READ ALL OF THE INFORMATION ON THE OTHER PAGES OF THIS FORM. You may wish to consult an attorney before using this deed. It may have results that you do not want. Provide only the information asked for in the form. DO NOT INSERT ANY OTHER INFORMATION OR INSTRUCTIONS. This form MUST BE RECORDED on or before 60 days after the date it is notarized or it will not be effective.

**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION** Print the legal description of the residential property affected by this deed: \_\_\_\_\_

**BENEFICIARY(IES)** Name the person(s) or entity(ies) who will receive the described property on your death. IF YOU ARE NAMING A PERSON, state the person's FULL NAME (DO NOT use general terms like "my children"). You may also wish to state the RELATIONSHIP that the person has to you (spouse, son, daughter, friend, etc.), but this is not required. IF YOU ARE NAMING A TRUST, state the full name of the trust, the name of the trustee(s), and the date shown on the signature page of the trust. IF YOU ARE NAMING A PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ENTITY, state the name of the entity as precisely as you can. \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSFER ON DEATH**  
I transfer all of my interest in the described property to the named beneficiary(ies) on my death. I may revoke this deed. When recorded, this deed revokes any TOD deed that I made before signing this deed. Sign and print your name below (your name should exactly match the name shown on your title documents). NOTE: This deed only transfers MY ownership share of the property. The deed does NOT transfer the share of any co-owner of the property. Any co-owner who wants to name a TOD beneficiary must execute and RECORD a SEPARATE deed.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Typed or Printed Name of Grantor \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Grantor \_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESSES** To be valid, this deed must be signed by two persons, both present at the same time, who witness your signing of the deed or your acknowledgment that is your deed. The signatures of the witnesses do not need to be acknowledged by a notary public.

Printed Name Witness #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature Witness #1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name Witness #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature Witness #2 \_\_\_\_\_

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

On \_\_\_\_\_ before me \_\_\_\_\_ (Name and title of the officer)  
personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of person signing) who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same in their authorized capacity(ies), and that by their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.  
WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Seal)

Rev 1/12/2022

**REVOCATION OF REVOCABLE TRANSFER ON DEATH (TOD) DEED**

WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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TITLE COVER NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DEED NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDERS USE ONLY

**Revocation of Revocable Transfer on Death (TOD) Deed**

Assessor's Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: THIS FORM MUST BE RECORDED TO BE EFFECTIVE**

This revocation form MUST BE RECORDED before your death or it will not be effective. This revocation form only affects a transfer on death deed that YOU made. A transfer on death deed made by a co-owner of your property is not affected by this revocation form. A co-owner who wants to revoke a transfer on death deed that he/she made must complete and RECORD a SEPARATE revocation form.

**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**  
(Insert Legal Description) \_\_\_\_\_

**REVOCATION**  
I revoke any TOD deed to transfer the described property that I executed before executing this form.

SIGNATURE AND DATE  
Sign and print your name below (your name should exactly match the name shown on your title documents):

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Type or print name \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California }  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ }

On \_\_\_\_\_ before me \_\_\_\_\_ (Name and title of the officer) personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct. WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)

**For additional information please contact your Cypress Title Representative.**