

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3260

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 30, 2023

Introduced by Sen. HOYLMAN-SIGAL -- read twice and ordered printed, and  
when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the estates, powers and trusts law, in relation to  
disqualification as a surviving spouse

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-  
bly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 5-1.2 of the estates, powers and trusts law, the  
opening paragraph of paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 515 of the laws  
of 1993, subparagraph 6 of paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 300 of  
the laws of 1981, is amended to read as follows:

§ 5-1.2 Disqualification as surviving spouse

(a) A husband or wife is a surviving spouse within the meaning, and  
for the purposes of 4-1.1, 5-1.1, 5-1.1-A, 5-1.3, 5-3.1 and 5-4.4,  
unless it is established satisfactorily to the court having jurisdiction  
of the action or proceeding that:

(1) A final decree or judgment of divorce, [~~of annulment or declaring  
the nullity of a marriage or dissolving such marriage on the ground of  
absence,~~] recognized as valid under the law of this state, was in effect  
when the deceased spouse died.

(2) A final decree or judgment of annulment or declaring the nullity  
of a void marriage or dissolving such marriage, recognized as valid  
under the law of this state, is issued before or after the deceased  
spouse died. For the purposes of this section, in the event any such  
decree or judgment is issued after the deceased spouse died, the  
marriage shall be deemed a nullity immediately prior to the death of  
such spouse.

(3) The marriage was void as incestuous under section five of the  
domestic relations law, bigamous under section six thereof, or a prohib-  
ited remarriage under section eight thereof.

~~(3)~~ (4) The spouse had procured outside of this state a final decree  
or judgment of divorce from the deceased spouse, of annulment or declar-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD01204-01-3

1 ing the nullity of the marriage with the deceased spouse or dissolving  
2 such marriage on the ground of absence, not recognized as valid under  
3 the law of this state.

4 [~~(4)~~] (5) A final decree or judgment of separation, recognized as  
5 valid under the law of this state, was rendered against the spouse, and  
6 such decree or judgment was in effect when the deceased spouse died.

7 [~~(5)~~] (6) The spouse abandoned the deceased spouse, and such abandon-  
8 ment continued until the time of death.

9 [~~(6)~~] (7) A spouse who, having the duty to support the other spouse,  
10 failed or refused to provide for such spouse though he or she had the  
11 means or ability to do so, unless such marital duty was resumed and  
12 continued until the death of the spouse having the need of support.

13 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.