

COMMON WAYS OF HOLDING TITLE TO CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY

| | TENANCY IN COMMON | JOINT TENANCY | COMMUNITY PROPERTY | COMMUNITY PROPERTY WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|---|
| PARTIES | Any number of persons (may be husband and wife or domestic partners). | Any number of persons (may be husband and wife or domestic partners). | Husband and wife or domestic partners. | Husband and wife or domestic partners. |
| DIVISION | Ownership can be divided into any number of interests, equal or unequal. | Ownership interests must be equal. | Ownership interests must be equal. | Ownership interests must be equal. |
| TITLE | Each co-tenant has a separate legal title to his/her undivided interest. | There is only one title to the whole property. | Title in the "Community". (Similar to title being in a partnership.) | Title in the "Community". (Similar to title being in a partnership.) |
| POSSESSION | Equal right of possession. | Equal right of possession. | Equal right of possession. | Equal right of possession. |
| TRANSFERABILITY | Each co-owner's interest may be transferred separately by its owner. | Transfer by one co- owner without the others breaks the joint tenancy. | Both co-owners must join in transfer. | Both co-owners must join in transfer. |
| DEATH OF CO-OWNER | On co-owner's death, his interest passes by will to his devisees or heirs. No survivorship right. | On co-owner's death, his interest ends and cannot be willed. Survivor owns the property by survivorship. | On co-owner's death, ½ goes to survivor in severalty. Up to ½ goes by will or succession to others. (Consult and attorney with specific questions.) | On co-owner's death, decedent's interest ends and cannot be willed. Survivor owns the property by survivorship. |
| SUCCESSOR'S STATUS | Devisees or heirs become tenants in common. | Last survivor owns property in severalty. | If passing by will, tenancy in common between devisee and survivor results. | Last survivor owns property in severalty. |

THIS IS PROVIDED FOR GENERAL INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO YOUR ATTORNEY.

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