

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

SENATE BILL 1378  
RATIFIED BILL

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO THE FORFEITURE OF  
PROPERTY RIGHTS BY SLAYERS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL  
STATUTES COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 31A-3 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 31A-3. Definitions.**

As used in this Article, unless the context otherwise requires, the term –

- (1) "Decedent" means the person whose life is taken by the slayer as defined in subdivision ~~(3)~~. (3) of this section.
- (2) "Property" means any real or personal property and any right or interest therein.
- (3) "Slayer" means any of the following:
  - a. ~~Any A person who who, by a court of competent jurisdiction jurisdiction, shall have been is~~ convicted as a principal or accessory before the fact of the willful and unlawful killing of another ~~person; or person.~~
  - b. ~~Any A person who shall have~~ has entered a plea of guilty in open court as a principal or accessory before the fact of the willful and unlawful killing of another ~~person; or person.~~
  - c. ~~Any A person who, upon indictment or information as a principal or accessory before the fact of the willful and unlawful killing of another person, shall have~~ has tendered a plea of nolo contendere which was accepted by the court and judgment entered ~~thereon; or thereon.~~
  - d. ~~Any person who shall have been found in a civil action or proceeding brought within one year after the death of the decedent to have willfully and unlawfully killed the decedent or procured his killing, and who shall have died or committed suicide before having been tried for the offense and before the settlement of the estate. A person who is found by a preponderance of the evidence in a civil action brought within two years after the death of the decedent to have willfully and unlawfully killed the decedent or procured the killing of the decedent. If a criminal proceeding is brought against the person to establish the person's guilt as a principal or accessory before the fact of the willful and unlawful killing of the decedent within two years after the death of the decedent, the civil action may be brought within 90 days after a final determination is made by a court of competent jurisdiction in that criminal proceeding or within the original two years after the death of the decedent, whichever is later. The burden of proof in the civil action is on the party seeking to establish that the killing was willful and unlawful for the purposes of this Article.~~

e. A juvenile who is adjudicated delinquent by reason of committing an act that, if committed by an adult, would make the adult a principal or accessory before the fact of the willful and unlawful killing of another person.

The term "slayer" does not include a person who is found not guilty by reason of insanity of being a principal or accessory before the fact of the willful and unlawful killing of another person."

**SECTION 2.** Article 3 of Chapter 31A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 31A-12.1. Remedies to be exclusive.**

This Article wholly supplants the common law rule preventing a person whose culpable negligence causes the death of a decedent from succeeding to any property passing by reason of the death of the decedent."

**SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to property passing from decedents dying on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2006.

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Beverly E. Perdue  
President of the Senate

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James B. Black  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Michael F. Easley  
Governor

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ .m. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006