QUESTION 2

Betsy, a Texas resident, died last month without a will. Betsy is survived by Jason, her second husband; Alice, her adult daughter from her first marriage; and Toby, her adult stepson.

At the time of her death, Betsy and Jason had no debts. The following assets were in Betsy’s estate:

(a) A Homestead valued at $250,000 that Betsy and Jason bought during their marriage;
(b) A $25,000 Certificate of Deposit, held with Alice, as joint tenants with right of survivorship;
(c) A Checking Account in the amount of $10,000 held as joint tenants with Jason;
(d) A Lake House valued at $200,000 that Betsy owned prior to her marriage to Jason; and
(e) Other Personal Property valued at $5,000 that Betsy inherited from her mother.

1. To whom and in what proportions should the following assets be distributed? Explain fully.
   (a) Homestead;
   (b) Certificate of Deposit;
   (c) Checking Account;
   (d) Lake House; and
   (e) Other Personal Property.

2. Under the Texas Estates Code, what are the various means by which heirs might settle and distribute a decedent’s intestate estate, and which of those means would work best for Betsy’s heirs in this case? Explain fully.