



Summer 2015

306 West Church Street
 Champaign, IL 61820
 (217) 352-1800
www.meyercapel.com
bstarks@meyercapel.com

All in the Family – It’s Reunion Season!

‘Tis the season of BBQs, baseball and backyard family gatherings with all those long-lost aunts, uncles and cousins. It’s fun for all until your Aunt Mabel’s tiny terror of a grandson, Spike, runs roughshod over your ankles with his skateboard causing you to wear your lunch... *then* you can’t wait to be as far removed from the backyard as

possible. But just how far removed *are* you? As it turns out, not much. You are first cousins once removed. Spike’s great-grandparent (Mabel’s parent) was your grandparent (i.e. your parent and Mabel were siblings) which made her your aunt. The “cousin chart” below (formally, “consanguinity table”) gives the proper

Brooke Didier Starks



If one person's →	Grandparent	Great-grandparent	Great-great-grandparent
Is the other person's ↓	<u>Then they are</u> ↘		
Grandparent	1st cousins	1st cousins once removed	1st cousins twice removed
Great-grandparent	1st cousins once removed	2nd cousins	2nd cousins once removed
Great-great-grandparent	1st cousins twice removed	2nd cousins once removed	3rd cousins
Great-great-great-grandparent	1st cousins thrice removed	2nd cousins twice removed	3rd cousins once removed
Great-great-great-great-grandparent	1st cousins four times removed	2nd cousins thrice removed	3rd cousins twice removed

terminology for all of those complicated cousin relationships. Of course, most of us find it easier to simply refer to the whole brood as

cousins, but when we'd just as soon not be considered part of THAT family, it may be refreshing to know just how much distance you can claim.

For more detailed descriptions and answers to the age old unsolved mystery "is it great-aunt or grand-aunt," see the larger chart below.

If one person's →		Parent	Grandparent	Great Grandparent	Great Great Grandparent	Great Great Great Grandparent	Great Great Great Great Grandparent
is the other person's ↓	then they're □						
Parent		Siblings	Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	Great Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	Great Great Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	Great Great Great Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle
Grandparent		Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	First Cousins	First Cousins Once Removed	First Cousins Twice Removed	First Cousins Thrice Removed	First Cousins Four Times Removed
Great Grandparent		Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	First Cousins Once Removed	Second Cousins	Second Cousins Once Removed	Second Cousins Twice Removed	Second Cousins Three Times Removed
Great Great Grandparent		Great Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	First Cousins Twice Removed	Second Cousins Once Removed	Third Cousins	Third Cousins Once Removed	Third Cousins Twice Removed
Great Great Great Grandparent		Great Great Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	First Cousins Thrice Removed	Second Cousins Twice Removed	Third Cousins Once Removed	Fourth Cousins	Fourth Cousins Once Removed
Great Great Great Great Grandparent		Great Great Great Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	First Cousins Four Times Removed	Second Cousins Thrice Removed	Third Cousins Twice Removed	Fourth Cousins Once Removed	Fifth Cousins
Great Great Great Great Great Grandparent		Great Great Great Great Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	First Cousins Five Times Removed	Second Cousins Four Times Removed	Third Cousins Thrice Removed	Fourth Cousins Twice Removed	Fifth Cousins Once Removed
Great Great Great Great Great Great Grandparent		Great Great Great Great Great Grand-Niece/Nephew or Aunt/Uncle	First Cousins Six Times Removed	Second Cousins Five Times Removed	Third Cousins Four Times Removed	Fourth Cousins Thrice Removed	Fifth Cousins Twice Removed

Chart courtesy Wikipedia, 2006

Brooke Starks is a shareholder attorney with the law firm of Meyer Capel in Champaign, Illinois. Her practice focuses exclusively on estate planning and administration, where she focuses her expertise on trusts, wills, probate, estate tax planning, wealth preservation, farm planning and business succession to serve her clients.

Brooke can be reached at: bstarks@meyercafel.com