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Estate Planning: Protecting Assets and Choices



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Estate planning protects children, assets and healthcare choices throughout all stages of life

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Estate planning does more than just say who gets what when you pass away...



- Estate planning starts protecting you and your loved ones while you’re living
- Each spouse should have their own estate plan
- Allows you to prepare your family so everyone knows what your choices are if something happens

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Unprotected and Unprepared

80% of Americans don't have an estate plan.

They lose not only assets, but their choices.

Even for those that do have a plan, life changes.

Confidential

Estate Planning Matters

- Courts will get involved; lawyers are expensive
- Decisions may not go the way you or your loved one wanted
- Family arguments often result
- Without an estate plan, employees can lose **3-8% of an estate's value** in largely avoidable fees





The Documents

WILL



What it does

Protect your children, leave gifts, say who gets what assets

Why you need it

To control who is appointed Guardian of your children; who is appointed your Personal Representative and who gets all your hard-earned assets.

What if you don’t have one?

Courts decide who cares for your children; added cost for your family

HEALTH CARE PROXY



What it does

Allows the person you choose to make your health care decisions when you can't; identifies your choices

Who needs one

Pretty much everyone over the age of 18 (including young adult children) should have a health care proxy which includes living will, medical directives, HIPAA release

Why have one

Allows you to control your health care choices; lets you talk to your children's doctors; often saves time, cost and stress for families

POWER OF ATTORNEY



What it does

Depending on how your write this, it allows someone to make your financial decisions when you can’t

Who should you name

Someone you trust completely; you are often giving them the ability to control your finances

Why have one

Allows someone to pay bills, taxes, etc. when you can not

TRUSTS



What it does

Allows family to use funds immediately after your death, privacy

Will vs trust-based estate plan

Most people don’t need a Trust-based estate plan. Main benefits are it is not a public document and can help avoid probate if done correctly.

Creating it is just the first step

After creating a trust, you next have to fund the trust, mostly meaning putting assets in the trust’s name as the owner.

PET TRUST



What it does

Provides for the care and financial support of your pets after your death.

When you need one

Takes effect after you pass away.

Why have one

Names who cares for your pet and provides that caregiver with funds to do so.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY FOR PET CARE



What it does

Lets someone make financial and vet decisions for your pet when you can’t; identify what you want to happen and how much to spend

When you need one

When you’re traveling; if you have a pet sitter

Why have one

Vets may not act until they have your consent or a Pet POA is in place

Make sure everyone knows where to turn

- An estate plan that no one knows about is ineffective
- Sharing your plan with loved ones is crucial
- Digital vaults allow sharing of documents, so they are just a few clicks away

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We make protecting families easy, fast and affordable

- Now EVERYONE can do estate planning
- Legally binding in all 50 states
- Easy to create documents
- Yearly vs. one-and-done
- Update documents any time
- Secure and accessible storage
- The go-to resource to protect family when life happens



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Thank You

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