

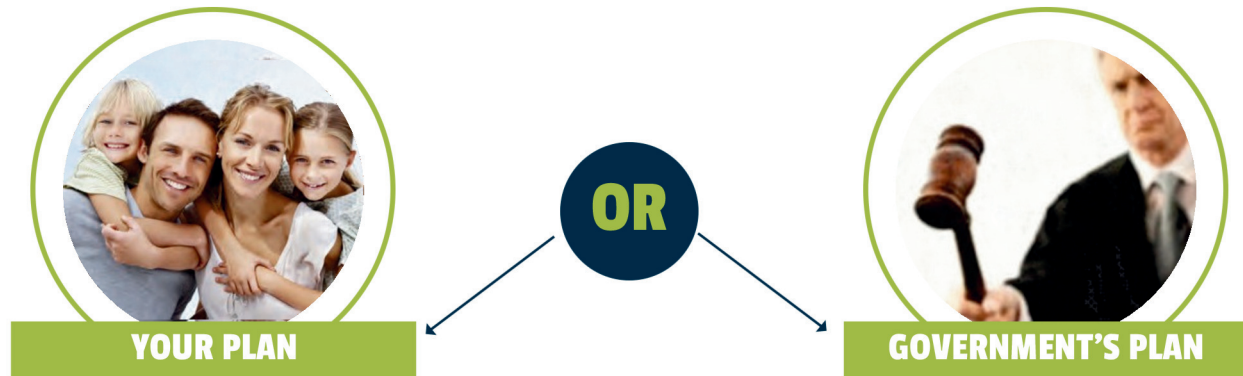


ESTATE PLAN DOCUMENTS

IS YOUR ESTATE PLANNING COMPLETE?



EVERYONE HAS AN ESTATE PLAN



Most do not realize it, but everyone already has an estate plan. The real question is how much control do you have? If you do not have a plan, then the government will impose one on your family. It will be slower, more expensive and lack any privacy. Most people are unaware how simple and easy it is to put a plan in place and take control over your legacy.

SmartMoney
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL MAGAZINE

“ *If You Have Some Assets (maybe Just A Car And Some Nice Furniture) Or Minor Children, You Still Need An Estate Plan Even If Taxes Are Not An Issue.”* **”**
SMART MONEY MAGAZINE (JAN. 2012)



- 1- NO PLAN, NO CONTROL**
(GOVERNMENT CONTROL)
- 2- A LAST WILL & TESTAMENT**
(LIMITED CONTROL)
- 3- A REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST**
(YOU MAINTAIN FULL CONTROL)

WHAT KINDS OF PLANS ARE THERE?

- Most believe estate planning in general, and a Revocable Living Trust specifically, are just for the wealthy. Actually everyone should have a plan and in fact, estate planning can actually be more important for smaller estates.
- Estate planning allows you to make sure that loved ones will be provided for and not overly burdened by personal and financial matters.
- An estate plan makes clear your wishes, and can help to avoid family disputes.

ESTATE PLANNING IS IMPORTANT IF:



- You own a business
- You own property in more than one state
- You have minor children or children with special needs
- You have children from a previous relationship
- Your spouse isn't comfortable handling financial matters
- You want to make significant charitable gifts
- Estate tax is a concern

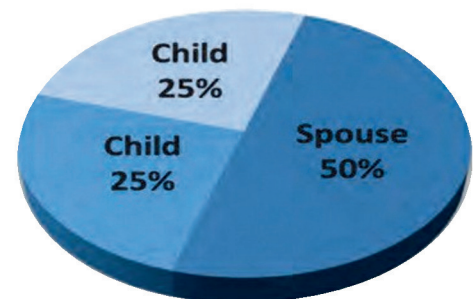
SO WHAT IF I HAVE NO PLAN?

Unless you've implemented other estate planning strategies, your property will go to the person or people that your state's intestacy laws say it should go to. State intestacy laws specify how your property will be divided. Your actual wishes are completely irrelevant.

Consequences of dying without an estate plan

- Your loved ones may be overly burdened settling your estate without the help of advance planning.
- Your loved ones may not be adequately provided for without a plan.
- Your estate might not pass to your heirs according to your wishes.
- Without proper planning, more of your estate may go to pay taxes and estate expenses.

TYPICAL GOV'T INTESTACY LAWS





Estate planning checklist:

■ **Revocable Living Trust**

The “centerpiece” of an estate plan. This document is a legal contract which enables the grantor (often referred to as the trustee, which can be a single individual or a married couple) to decide how the estate will be settled, to whom, how the proceeds are to be distributed, and when. With a Revocable Living Trust, everything you decided during your planning process occurs quickly and without the cost of probate court, thereby minimizing the stress and cost to your grieving family.

■ **Certificate of Trust**

A certificate of trust is a document that summarizes the details of a revocable living trust. This document is “proof” that you have a trust and the authority the trust has over real properties and other titled assets that are funded into the trust. This document protects the integrity of the trust, shielding information from the public that the grantor considers confidential, for instance the identity of the beneficiaries.

■ **Last Will and Testament**

A last will and testament is a legal “wish” document that communicates a person's final wishes pertaining to possessions and dependents. It is not a contract and can be modified based on the findings of the probate court. This can occur if someone questions anything concerning the will. A probate court judge makes the final determination based on the findings of the court proceedings.



■ **Financial Power of Attorney**

This document appoints an agent(s) to perform financial decisions regarding any assets not funded into your Trust at the time of your legal incapacitation. (For assets already funded into the Trust, the Trustee already has this authority.)

■ **Healthcare Power of Attorney**

This document allows your appointed agent(s) to make important health care decisions for you in the event of your incapacitation. In conjunction with your Advanced Medical Directive, your agent can make all important healthcare decisions, including the continuation of life support systems.

■ **Advanced Directives (Living Will)**

The difference between this document and the durable power of attorney over healthcare is this document comes into play when the person you appointed as the power of attorney over your healthcare is either not present to make decisions or for whatever reason chooses not to. Your advanced medical directive allows you to spell out your decisions about how you want to be cared for in a life threatening situation.

■ **Legal Guardianship**

Without a plan, the court will decide who will become your children's guardian. An Estate Plan allows you to name the guardian of your choice. Additionally, this is especially important with special needs children and adult disabled children. Our special needs provision in all trusts ensures all the correct actions will be taken after your death.



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