Six Things You Need, to ensure You Always Protect Your Children

1. **Permanent Guardian:** This is the person(s) that will raise your children, if you are not able to do so yourself.

2. **Temporary Guardians**: These are the people that can be with your children within minutes. This could be a neighbor, a friend, and/or a family member.

3. **Exclusion of Guardians:** This is the person(s), if any, that you would never want to be around your children, without supervision.

4. **Medical Power of Attorney:** This is the person(s) that can make medical decisions for your children, if you are not able to do so yourself. This could include the Permanent and/or Temporary Guardians.

5. **Baby-Sitter Instructions:** These are very clear instructions that your baby-sitter would follow if the baby-sitter cannot get a hold of you. These instructions detail what the baby-sitter should do, who to call, and in what order.

6. **Your Child's Preferences:** The Guardians you selected want to comfort your children; but no one knows your children better than you. So you should share that information, so that your Guardians can know how to best comfort your children.



Contact us:

(954) 963-7220

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What would happen to your children if something were to happen to you?

This is a very difficult question to answer. On the one hand, you may already have thought about this, and actually have a plan. You may have talked to friends or family who are ready to step in. They say it takes a village! But do you have the necessary documentation to grant your village the legal authority to step up for your children? Would the school administrator, the baby-sitter, your trusted friends and family members know who to call or what steps to take?

The reality is that traditional estate planning focuses on the assets and the transfer of wealth after you're gone. But this approach overlooks the most important part of your life – your children and what would happen to them!

That's what our Children's Protection Plan is all about! To ensure that you have a comprehensive estate plan that addresses the unique needs of your family as part of your planning, we include a Children Protection Plan that is tailored to your family and designed to address your goals and concerns regarding the care of your minor children.

The Children's Protection Plan will ensure that no matter what, YOU (not the courts, or Florida law) select the persons that you would want to be there for your children, and that you can guide the persons you select by letting them know more about how to comfort your children and the decisions you would want them to make for the benefit of your children. Conversely, the law presumes that blood relatives are in the best interest of minors. But we all know that may not always be the case! So if you have family members that you would never want to be the ones who care for your children, then, that, too, should be documented.

In other words, the Children's Protection Plan ensures that your voice continues to be heard, even if you are not physically able to do so.

Is all this planning really necessary?

We think so! In cases where there is no properly authorized person available to immediately step in, your children could be placed in the care of the State - a foster home or emergency shelter - until the courts establish, in accordance with Florida law (not your choices), where and with whom the children go.

What is YOUR Plan? Who would you want to be the

	Do you have?	Who is your 1st choice?	Who is your 2nd choice?
Permanent Guardian: This is the person(s) that will raise your children, if you are not able to do so yourself.	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Temporary Guardians: These are the people that can be with your children within minutes. This could be a neighbor, a friend, a family member.	☐ Yes ☐ No		

Exclusion of Guardians: Are there family members that should never be unsupervised with your children?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Medical Power of Attorney: Do your Guardians have a Medical POA for your children?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Baby-Sitter Instructions: Does your baby-sitter have instructions of what to do, who to call and in what order?	☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature _____ Date _____

PERMISSION TO CONTACT: I authorize Menendez Law Firm to contact me by phone, email, or mail.
I understand I can withdraw permission at any time, and that the law firm will not sell or share my contact information with anyone.

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