

Life Changes — Your Will Should Too

By Mark Mauriello, Esq.

Buying a home. Getting Married. Welcoming a new child or grandchild. Getting Divorced. These are some of the most joyful — or most stressful — moments in life. They change everything: your priorities, your finances, your relationships, your sense of the future.

What many people don't realize is - these events should often also change your will. Your estate plan isn't a one-and-done document. It's a living reflection of your life and your intentions. If your life has changed, your will and related documents should reflect that change.

When you buy a house, your estate plan should address who inherits that asset — and how. Failing to plan could mean the property goes through a more lengthy probate, or is even distributed to someone you didn't intend.

When you have a child or grandchild, you'll want to name guardians, set up trusts if appropriate, and ensure that your loved ones are protected — both emotionally and financially — if something happens to you.

If you get divorced, you will want to make sure you don't let an outdated will leave assets to your ex. It happens more than you think — and it's completely preventable with a proper update.

When you start or end a business, you need to make sure ownership changes, succession planning, and beneficiary designations need to be aligned with your current intentions.

It's not just about money — it's about peace of mind.

An up-to-date will ensures that your voice is heard, your wishes are followed, and your loved ones aren't left with confusion or conflict during a difficult time.

It's also not just about your will. Your health care proxy, power of attorney, and beneficiary designations may also need to be revised when major life events happen.

If you've experienced a major life change recently, now is the time to revisit your estate plan. Not tomorrow. Not "someday." Now. Because life changes — and your plan should change with it.

If you're not sure where to start, I'm happy to help. Let's make sure your legacy is as thoughtful as the life you're building.