

WHAT IS

Estate Planning?

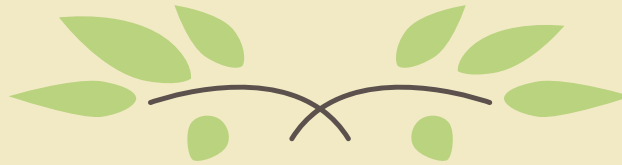


Estate planning is the legal means by which you can take control and determine specifically what will happen to your estate if you become incapacitated or after you pass away.

Estate planning is a way of easing the burden for your loved ones and ensuring that your wishes for your estate are fulfilled. Estate planning is, essentially, an invaluable gift that you give to yourself and the people who you love.

WITH PROPER ESTATE PLANNING YOU CAN:

- ♦ Appoint someone to handle your affairs if you become incapacitated
- ♦ Specify your later-life healthcare preferences
- ♦ Avoid probate
- ♦ Determine how your assets will be distributed upon your death
- ♦ Appoint a guardian for your children
- ♦ Minimize estate taxes
- ♦ Maintain privacy over your financial affairs



This brochure is for general educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. To speak with someone about estate planning, contact:

PAULA SCHAEFER LAW



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ESTATE PLANNING

TURN YOUR WISHES INTO PLANS

*and Create Peace of Mind
for You and Your Loved Ones*



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ESTATE PLANNING IS NOT JUST FOR WEALTHY PEOPLE

You should consider estate planning if you have:

- ◆ Children under the age of 18 or special needs children of any age
- ◆ Assets worth more than \$150,000
- ◆ A desire to minimize estate taxes
- ◆ Concerns about what will happen if you become incapacitated
- ◆ Preferences for your later-life care
- ◆ A blended family
- ◆ Preferences about the distribution of your possessions after you pass away
- ◆ A wish to maintain privacy over your financial affairs

A WILL IS NOT ENOUGH

A will is just one aspect of a complete estate plan; it does not avoid probate or begin to “cover all your bases.” In addition to a will, most estate plans should also include a Revocable Living Trust so your heirs can avoid probate, an Advance Health Care Directive specifying the medical care and intervention you do or do not want, and a Durable Power of Attorney appointing someone to handle your affairs if you become incapacitated.

YOU REALLY WANT TO AVOID PROBATE

Probate is a legal process for distributing the property of a deceased person. Probate takes from 9 months to around 2 years, ties up your assets during this time, and costs thousands of dollars. Probate is an expensive, time-consuming hassle that can be avoided with proper estate planning.

DO-IT-YOURSELF DOCUMENTS ARE OFTEN INCORRECT

No book, software program, or website can possibly account for each person's unique situation and needs, keep up with the laws in each jurisdiction, and create a fully personalized plan. It's no wonder that do-it-yourself legal documents often fail to accomplish the writer's goals.



YOUR ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY

The first thing that most clients notice about Paula is her warm and welcoming demeanor. Although dealing with legal matters can be intimidating, Paula quickly puts everyone at ease. Clients appreciate Paula's:

- ◆ Ability to handle complex family dynamics
- ◆ Excellent listening skills
- ◆ Completely non-judgmental approach
- ◆ High level of personal service

Paula loves helping people take positive steps in their lives. To help ensure that her clients' final property and health care wishes are honored, Paula really takes the time to get to know her clients and thoroughly explain all of their estate planning options to them.