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ESTATE PLANNING DEFICIENCIES CHECK-UP

WHY DO YOU NEED AN ESTATE PLAN?

The number one reason people don't create an estate plan is because they believe their estate is too small. However, estate planning is for everyone because without proactive planning, state laws will determine how your assets pass, to whom they pass, and when they pass. This can lead to undesired results, and is perhaps the most costly way to pass assets to loved ones – even if those assets are small. An estate plan isn't just about tax and probate avoidance; it is about establishing a legacy and a clear process for your care and the care of your loved ones upon your incapacity or death.

A well-structured estate plan provides benefits in five key areas:

PEACE OF MIND	INCAPACITY	ASSETS	PROTECTION	TAXES
<p>Name guardians for minor children Appoint trusted people to manage your affairs Keep your affairs private Build a legacy to pass to your loved ones</p>	<p>Choose who will make emergency health care decisions for you in the event you are unable to do so Identify how you wish to determine if you are mentally disabled Care for you and your loved ones in the event you are unable to do so</p>	<p>Avoid delays and expense of probate Prevent possible will contests and disputes Designate beneficiaries on retirement plans and life insurance policies</p>	<p>Protect your children's inheritance if your surviving spouse remarries or from a divorcing spouse Protect assets passed to your surviving spouse and to your children's inheritance from creditors and lawsuits</p>	<p>Minimize possible federal and state estate taxes at your death (including taxes on your house, life insurance and IRA's) Maintain consistency with current tax laws</p>

CURRENT PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

The following questions will help you determine if your current estate plan is sufficient to accomplish your goals of providing for your care during incapacity, protecting your loved ones, and passing your assets to whom you want, when you want, and in the way you want.

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Do you have a current plan (a Will or Trust) in place? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 2. Do you have a current Durable Power of Attorney? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 3. Do you have a current Health Care Power of Attorney? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 4. Do you have an Advanced Healthcare Directive (a.k.a. Living Will)? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 5. Has your current plan been reviewed in the last two years? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 6. Does your current plan contain a customized plan to determine if you are mentally disabled? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 7. Does your current plan give instructions for your care and the care of your loved ones in the event of your disability? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 8. Are you certain your current plan will minimize possible federal estate taxes at your death, including taxes on your house, life insurance and IRA's? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 9. Is your current plan fully funded so that not one single item will have to go through probate? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 10. Have you taken steps to avoid possible will contests and disputes during the administration of your estate? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 11. Does your current plan protect your children's inheritance? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 11.A. In the event your surviving spouse chooses to remarry? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 11.B. From creditors? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 11.C. From lawsuits? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 11.D. From a divorcing spouse? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| 12. Does your current plan protect assets passed to your surviving spouse? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |

12.A. In the event your surviving spouse chooses to remarry? YES NO DON'T KNOW

12.B. From creditors? YES NO DON'T KNOW

12.C. From lawsuits?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
13. Have you recently checked the beneficiary designations of your retirement plans and life insurance policies?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
14. If you have a Trust, are you confident that you have not listed your estate or any minor children as either primary or secondary beneficiaries of your retirement plans and life insurance policies?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
15. Does your current plan name guardians for your minor children?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
16. Are you confident your current plan is income tax efficient?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
17. Does your current plan name an executor or successor trustee?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
18. Are you confident your executor, power of attorney, and successor trustee are prepared to act on your behalf when asked to?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW

COMPLIMENTARY ESTATE PLANNING CONSULTATION

If you answered **No** or **Don't Know** to any of the questions, you can sign up for a no cost, no obligation estate planning consultation. Complete this form, return it to our office, and we will contact you to schedule the complimentary consultation.

1. Your Name: _____ Spouse: _____

2. Telephone: _____ Best time to call _____ am/pm

3. Email Address: _____