

WHO NEEDS ESTATE PLANNING?

The facts ...

Estate planning is not about how much money you have, it is about protecting what you have for you, during your life and for those you love, after you are gone. It ensures what you have gets to the people you love, the way you want, when you want.

If you were to die today, are you comfortable everything will be taken care of the way you wanted? Estate planning is meant to ensure things will be handled the way you want by providing sufficient instructions.

Estate Planning really is for everyone. It does not matter if you have \$40,000 or \$400,000. You still have to plan for the future. Whether it is to name a guardian for your minor children or ensure your children do not blow through your assets if you unexpectedly die or become disabled. Estate planning also allows you to express your beliefs and requests if you are incapacitated and unable to communicate your desires later.

Estate planning can only be done by attorneys, and it can be as simple as a Will, Health Care Power of Attorney, Living Will and Financial Power of Attorney. It can also include a revocable, probate-avoidance trust, asset protection trusts, and many other fact-specific strategies.

Keeping your Estate Plan Current ...

Once completed, your estate plan should be reviewed and kept current with life events such as birth, death, marriage or divorce of anyone included in your plan. In addition, you should review your plan if there is a significant increase or decrease in your finances or if the laws related to your estate plan change.