

Estate Planning Quick List

Do you need to plan your estate? If you already have an estate plan, when was the last review?

Item	Yes	No	Last Review
Will – Do you have a will? A will is a key estate document.			
Revocable trust – Do you have or need a revocable trust? A revocable (or “living”) trust can be used as a will substitute.			
Irrevocable trust – Is an irrevocable trust needed to help pay estate taxes (federal and/or state) and other settlement expenses?			
How are assets owned? – Are assets appropriately “titled” to meet all estate planning goals?			
Beneficiary designations – Are beneficiary designations current for life insurance, 401(k)s, IRAs, and other assets?			
Estate settlement costs <ul style="list-style-type: none">What has been done to reduce estate settlement costs?How are any remaining costs to be paid?			
Estate taxes – Has estate tax planning been done? Under federal law, net estates of less than \$13,990,000 (2025) are exempt from estate tax. State law may differ.			
Providing for survivors <ul style="list-style-type: none">Are guardians needed for minor children?Do you have any beneficiaries who are minors?Is professional asset management necessary?			
If you cannot act for yourself – Do you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A “Living Will?”A Durable power of attorney for health care?A Durable power of attorney for financial affairs?			
Is there a letter of instructions? – A private, informal way of guiding your family or executor in settling your estate.			
Do you wish to leave an “ethical will?” – An ethical will is a spiritual legacy to future generations.			

Seek Professional Guidance

The guidance of a trained, experienced attorney is considered essential in the development of a successful estate plan. Professionals from other disciplines such as income tax, life insurance, trust administration, charitable giving, and investment management may also be part of your estate planning “team.”

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