

Your Legacy, Your Way

BUSTING ESTATE PLANNING MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS





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Association.



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Busting Estate Planning Myths and Misconceptions

1. WILLS AVOID PROBATE
2. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS ARE ENOUGH
3. POWERS OF ATTORNEY ARE ENOUGH
4. ESTATE PLANNING IS FOR THE WEALTHY
5. WAIT FOR RETIREMENT
6. IT'S ALL OR NOTHING
7. ONE-AND-DONE ESTATE PLAN
8. TRUSTS DON'T NEED MAINTENANCE
9. ANY ATTORNEY CAN DO IT
10. ESTATE PLANNING IS COMPLICATED AND EXPENSIVE



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BUSTING ESTATE PLANNING MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

MYTH: WILLS AVOID PROBATE

"If I have a will, I will avoid probate."

MYTH: WILLS AVOID PROBATE

What is probate and why do I want to avoid it?
And is it bad if I don't?

What is a Last Will and Testament?





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BUSTING ESTATE PLANNING MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

MYTH: BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS ARE ENOUGH

“Beneficiary designations alone are a sufficient form of estate planning.”

MYTH: BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS ARE ENOUGH

What is a beneficiary designation?

What can go wrong?

What are their limitations?

Do you care what happens? Planning is a choice.





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BUSTING ESTATE PLANNING MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

MYTH: POWERS OF ATTORNEY ARE ENOUGH

"A power of attorney alone is a sufficient form of estate planning."

MYTH: POWERS OF ATTORNEY ARE ENOUGH

What is a Power of Attorney?

What does it mean if a Power of Attorney is “durable”?

Pitfalls of relying solely on financial Powers of Attorney.





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MYTH: ESTATE PLANNING IS FOR THE WEALTHY

*“Estate planning, specifically a Revocable Living Trust,
is only for the wealthy.”*

MYTH: ESTATE PLANNING IS FOR THE WEALTHY

Who should have an estate plan?

What is a trust?

How much money do you need to have a trust?





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MYTH: WAIT FOR RETIREMENT

"I'm young and healthy...I don't need to think about an estate plan until I am ready to retire."

MYTH: WAIT FOR RETIREMENT

- Do all accidents, injuries, illnesses or deaths occur after retirement?
- Do you know what would happen to your assets if you passed away tomorrow?
- Do you know where all your assets are located, today?
- Did you know that your state's laws have a plan for you if you don't?
- If you were going into the hospital tomorrow, would another individual be able to take care of your financial life?
- Do you have children who are minors or take care of a special needs individual?
- Do you want a say in what your plan says?
- Would you like your affairs to be handled with ease and cost-effectively if something happened to you?





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MYTH: IT'S ALL OR NOTHING

*"If I want to leave a gift to a charity,
my family will miss out."*

MYTH: IT'S ALL OR NOTHING

- Leave a specific dollar amount or item to a charity.
- Designate a percentage of your estate to go to charities and a percentage to go to individuals.
- Name a charity as a contingent beneficiary, meaning they receive a gift only if certain conditions are met (*e.g., if a primary beneficiary is no longer living*).





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MYTH: ONE-AND-DONE ESTATE PLAN

“Once I have my estate planning documents completed, I can check it off my list and put it in the drawer.”

MYTH: ONE-AND-DONE ESTATE PLAN

- Certainties in life: death, taxes, and change!
- It's not just about you – the laws change, too!
- Do not just 'write in' changes - never write on the documents.
- Small changes can be done cost effectively with a will codicil or trust amendment.





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MYTH: TRUSTS DON'T NEED MAINTENANCE

*"If I have a revocable living trust, I don't
need to do anything else."*

MYTH: TRUSTS DON'T NEED MAINTENANCE

Your plan is living and breathing as you live and breathe.

The importance of funding the trust for the rest of your life – the process of changing your asset titles and beneficiary designations.

Reviewing the funding of your trust assets and beneficiary designations on a consistent basis.





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MYTH: ANY ATTORNEY CAN DO IT

“Any licensed attorney can help me create and execute an estate plan.”

MYTH: ANY ATTORNEY CAN DO IT

Sure, but not recommended.

All attorneys are not the same.

If a non-licensed attorney tries to sell you a trust.... RUN!





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BUSTING ESTATE PLANNING MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

**MYTH:
ESTATE PLANNING
IS COMPLICATED
AND EXPENSIVE**

"It's all so confusing and I can't afford it."

MYTH: ESTATE PLANNING IS COMPLEX AND EXPENSIVE

- Is it potentially more complicated and expensive to with a plan, or without a plan?
- The advisor you choose impacts these aspects of planning.
- The structuring of your estate plan can not only provide a plan for disability and for death, but can also minimize estate taxes, capital gains taxes, and provide a host of benefits to your loved ones.
- If you decide something is going to be difficult, then it will be difficult. ***You have the power to create your own experience.***



BUSTING ESTATE PLANNING MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

CONCLUSION & KEY POINTS

- Don't wait – get started on your estate plan TODAY!
- Work with a competent attorney who focuses their practice on estate planning law.
- An estate plan is a great way to support your favorite charities, while still making sure your loved ones are provided for.
- Review & update your estate plan regularly.
- Creating a workable estate plan is the last gift you will leave your loved ones and your last chance to make the world a better place.



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Questions?



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Resources



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Thank You



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