

# ESTATE PLANNING OVERVIEW



Death isn't a topic that anyone likes to think about. In reality, though, devising an estate plan is the only way to ensure that the people you care most about will be taken care of after you're no longer here to provide for them.

Before creating any estate plan, it's important to keep in mind the three overriding goals of estate planning:

1 Achieving personal and financial goals

2 Minimizing risks and expenses

3 Obtaining peace of mind for you and your loved ones



When you are alive and healthy



In the event you become disabled or incapacitated,



Upon your death

Contrary to popular belief, estate planning is about more than providing for your family after you're gone. A proper estate plan should be put in place as soon as possible so that you maintain complete control over your property and finances during three crucial times:

An estate plan serves as a roadmap or set of instructions explaining the distribution of your property, specifically:



## WHY DO I NEED AN ESTATE PLAN?

Making your wishes clear when you're unable to express them yourself due to incapacitation or death



Ensuring that your family and loved ones are provided for after you're gone

Minimizing estate and death taxes



Estate plans can serve a number of purposes beyond just setting out financial arrangements, including:



Avoiding the costly and time-consuming probate process



Protecting the privacy of your family members if sensitive matters are involved

Estate planning isn't limited to distributing property. It provides a means of protecting your legacy and easing the burden your heirs might face in the wake of your passing. In your estate documents, you can:



Appoint an executor or personal representative to handle the administrative aspects of distributing your estate according to your wishes



Designate a guardian for your children, if necessary



Make financial and logistical arrangements for your burial or cremation



Arrange for the repayment of any existing debts



Set up trusts to provide protection for vulnerable beneficiaries or heirs who lack money-management skills



Set up trusts for the benefit of your favorite charities

Your personalized estate plan should be made up of the documents that are right for your particular situation. The most common components of typical estate plan are:



The will



The trust documents



The Power of Attorney



The living will or health care directive



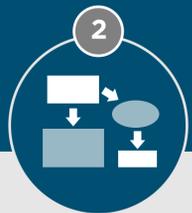
The beneficiary designations

To many, the estate planning process may seem overwhelming. We're here to show you that it doesn't have to be. Estate planning with The Ledbetter Law Firm, APC consists of four simple steps:



### THE FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

This is where we learn about your personal situation, and determine what your goals and objectives are.



### THE DESIGN MEETING

After outlining your goals and objectives, we help you create an individualized estate plan that is specifically tailored to meet them.



### THE SIGNING MEETING

You always have a chance to review your proposed estate plan, and you only sign when you're sure it's in line with your wishes



### THE FUNDING

After your estate plan is finalized, we can help with beneficiary designations or other funding issues necessary for your plan to be carried out

**CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BUILDING AN ESTATE PLAN THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.**

