PLANNINGAHEAD

MANAGING FUNERAL & FAMILY ESTATE ARRANGEMENTS

EDUCATE YOURSELF

- How to include giving in your estate plan
- Pre-planning with a professional can ease anxiety
- Step-by-step guide to planning a funeral service
- What to know about life insurance



FUNERAL



Funeral homes offer number of services to aid grieving families

Metro Creative Connection

death of a loved one can be difdividuals' thoughts, compro- a nearby funeral home. mising their ability to devote thing else.

ored upon their death. Pre-plan- ing: ning also can afford survivors

their lives. When a deceased in- home staff recognize that and desired tone of the service by the deceased is a veteran. The period surrounding the dividual makes no such plans, can often help families iden- showcasing how the viewing family members are tasked with tify unique traits about the deficult to navigate. Mourning a planning the funeral - a pro- ceased that can be conveyed recently deceased family mem- cess that can be simplified with during the ceremony. Whether ber or friend can dominate in- the help of experienced staff at it's playing a favorite song or neral home staff also can help

much time and energy to any-ray of services that can ensure text or a favorite book, fu-ing clergy to preside over the Some people decide to pre- deceased and take some of the families to personalize the cere- reach out to extended family details that grieving relatives plan their funerals in an effort pressure off that person's surmony as much as loved ones demembers who immediate famto ensure their wishes are hon-viving family members, includ-sire.

more time to grieve and ensure people are the same, so there's ber, but they also can be celing as pallbearers. Funeral difamily members choose an ap-

decisions at a difficult time in for a funeral service. Funeral can help families establish the tary honors for the ceremony if choosing an especially mean-grieving families organize the Funeral homes offer an ar- ingful passage from a religious ceremony, including contactceremonies honor the life of the neral home staff will work with service. Funeral staff also may

 Establish the desired ambi-Honor the deceased: No two ance: Funerals tend to be somthey won't need to make hard no one-size-fits-all template ebratory. Funeral home staff rectors also may request mili- propriate urn.

space can be decorated and prepared for visitations.

• Organize the ceremony: Fuily may want to perform certain

 Burial details: If the deceased is being buried, funeral staff can contact local cemetery officials and get the details on the purchase of a plot if no plot has been purchased previously. Funeral staff also can help families choose a casket and burial liner and organize additional may know little about. If the deceased is being cremated, fufunctions in the ceremony, such neral home staff can coordinate as reading passages and serv- the cremation process and help

FUNERAL

Pre-planning with a professional can ease anxiety

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The death of a loved is difficult to confront. Emotions are elevated and their survivors. grief is prominent. which can make it hard to make to consider.

Heritage Life Insurance answer any questions. Company, the average funeral costs between \$7,000 and \$12,000, which may or process may not include viewing, burial, transport, casket ute a portion of these expenses if other arrangetime.

a little more manageable ments. for their survivors. Funeral homes frequently work hand-in-hand with individuals and families professional also helps altate the process.

als consider their options:

Explore your options

Funeral pre-planning is a good way for individuals to make a difficult time a little more manageable for

important decisions. Quite enables people to consider what they desire and even often several people need all of the options without finance the funeral in adto come together to make the time constraints of decisions necessary for a making funeral arrangefamily member's funeral ments directly after the arrangements. There also passing of a loved one. A payment plan is a financial component knowledgeable staff member at a funeral home can According to Lincoln explain the offerings and member can go over the var-

Straightforward

and other fees. Surviving has planned a funeral in arrangement can be a way family members responsithe past, there could be to "spend down" assets in ble for planning a funeral a lot of unknowns. Fu- a way that protects those may be asked to contrib- neral homes handle these monies from look-back peevents every day and can guide families through ments have not already the intricacies of the probeen made, which can excess with ease. Most have acerbate stressful feelings pre-planning kits that induring an already difficult clude all of the essentials of the process, such as Funeral pre-planning is choosing caskets, decida good way for individu- ing on prayer cards and als to make a difficult time designing floral arrange-

Avoid confrontations

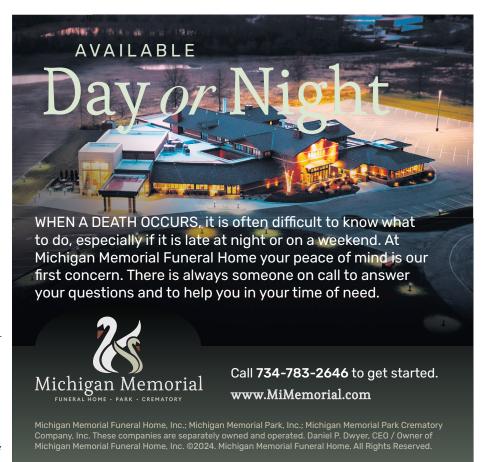
Pre-planning a funeral their own words exactly time to mourn.

Establish a

A funeral home staff ious wavs to fund funeral expenses and may work out a payment schedule to spread out the expense over time. He or she also may Unless an individual explain how funeral preriods when determining eligibility for certain assisted living or nursing facilities should that be required in the future.

Works with religious officials

Very often a funeral home is a conduit that facilitates all facets of the funeral process. They may Working directly with a reach out to a preferred house of worship to orgato customize pre-plan- leviate the burden on fam- nize a mass or other rening packages and facili- ily members, who may not ligious service, and will agree on arrangements or also contact the cemetery Here's a rundown of concur on what they be- and work with them to sepre-planning as individu- lieve would be a loved cure a plot and deed. This one's final wishes. When also alleviates pressure pre-planning a funeral, in- down the line on grieving dividuals can spell out in family members who need



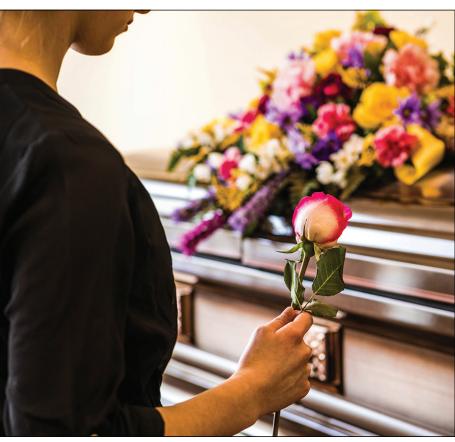


PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

ESTATE PLANNING

How to include giving in your estate plan

Metro Creative Connection

profit organizations. The nization in their wills. generosity of donors helps charities meet their mis- rollover. The Internal Revsions and provide vital ser- enue Service notes that invices to people facing dis-dividuals with an IRA, SEP ease, financial hardship IRA, Simple IRA, or retireand other situations they ment plan account genercannot overcome on their ally must begin withdraw-

still alive.

plans, and that can benefit charities and donors.

their estate plans:

als may be able to lower pires.

the estate taxes on their estates at their time of death Charitable giving is the if they bequeath money to lifeblood of many non- an eligible charitable orga-

• Consider a charitable ing money from these ac-Many donors make sac- counts when they reach rifices to support their fa- age 72. These withdrawals vorite causes and charities. are called required min-Forgoing certain luxuries imum distributions and so money can be donated they are considered taxto charity illustrates the able income. However, inselfless nature of charita- dividuals who want to give ble giving, which can even to charity can opt for a continue after death. Es- Qualified Charitable Distate planning is a com-tribution, or QCD. A QCD plicated process that de- counts toward the minitails exactly how a person mum distribution from rewants their assets divvied tirement accounts and inup after death. But an es- dividuals will not be taxed tate plan also can go into on the money they donate effect while individuals are to charity. That's a winwin for charities and in-Each year, millions of dividuals 72 and over who people across the globe do not need to withdraw choose to include charita- money from their IRAs to ble giving in their estate meet daily living expenses.

Donate via a charitable remainder trust. Following are a handful A charitable remainder of the many ways charita- trust, or CRT, allows inble men and women can dividuals to set up a trust incorporate giving into that benefits both a designated beneficiary and a Bequest giving in a will charity or charities of their or living trust. Perhaps the choosing. When a CRT is most widely known way set up, a beneficiary will to include charitable giv- receive annual payments ing in an estate plan is to from the trust until it terbequeath money in a will minates, at which time the or living will. The Commuremaining funds in the nity Foundation Alliance trust are donated to charnotes that bequests typi- ity. The philanthropy excally allow donors to deperts at Fidelity Charitable fine how their donations note that individuals can will be spent or utilized. name themselves as the That benefits charitable beneficiaries of the trust, organizations, but surviv- which ensures they will ing family members also have an income during recan benefit from such ar- tirement and that their farangements. According to vorite charities will be sup-LawDepot.com, individu- ported when the trust ex-



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Uncertainty happens -

A loved one enters a nursing home; your mom can no longer handle her finances; grandma dies; your aunt wanders from home and can't remember how to get back; a disabled child on Medicaid benefits receives money from a lawsuit settlement.

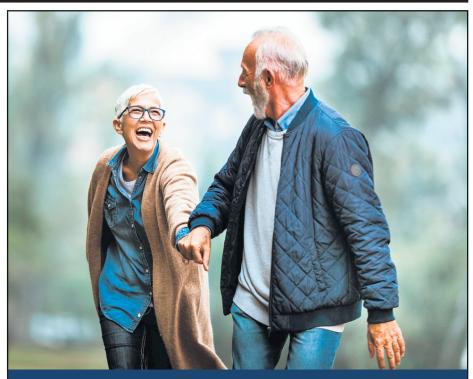
The Law Offices of Kevin M. Gilhool is an elder law firm that assists families in Michigan facing long-term care costs protect their savings and maximize government benefits. These benefits can include Medicare and Medicaid benefits, Veterans Administration benefits, and creative use of private finances. Our practice includes preparation and advice regarding durable powers of attorney, health care surrogates, living wills,

trusts, and last will and testaments. We assist in the administration of decedent's estates including probate administration and trust administration. We also provide advice and counsel pertaining to guardianship matters. Our practice offers planning for the disabled including special needs trusts. Our team's mission is to provide guidance and thoughtful counsel in times of uncertainty.



The Law Offices of Kevin M. Gilhool

(734) 285-9040 2409 Fort Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192



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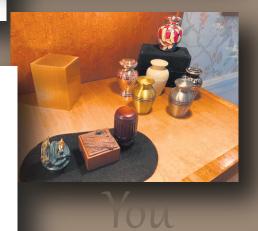
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FUNERALS

Step-by-step guide to planning a funeral service

Trust & Will

Funerals are an im- as possible. portant step in the grieving process, and while facing the reality of having to plan one may be a daunting task, following a few simple steps can help arranged funeral plans, make the process less overwhelming.

guide from Trust & Will traditionally specify fuon how to plan a funeral neral plans as well as the for a loved one:

1. Contact the deceased's legal representative

The first thing to do before planning the funeral rangements and grave service is to reach out to marker the deceased individual's legal representative. This person - typically a perplanning lawyer — will have the estate plan. This support you through the final arrangements. process.

2. Arrange for transportation of the deceased

neral home or cremation from to honor the deceased. site to work with, if there is Many families opt for a traan estate plan it may spec- ditional burial, with a visify this information. Reach itation and formal memoout to the funeral director rial service. However, graveto arrange for transporta- side services are a common tion of the deceased. While option as well. Some indithis may be an emotion- viduals will prefer cremaally difficult conversation, tion or a celebration of life remember that these are ceremony for family and skilled professionals. They friends. Read this guide to will be able to walk you learn more about the varithrough transportation de- ous funeral types before se-

tails and make the process lecting one. as simple for you to manage

3. Carry out any prearranged funeral plans

Once you obtain any prehonor and execute the wishes of the deceased. Fifollowing:

- Whether the deceased prefers a traditional burial or cremation
- Where to be buried or have ashes scattered
- Preferred flower ar-
- service to hold
- Details on anything to sonal attorney or estate include in the service (music, readings, etc.)
- Pre-arranged funeral information will be cru- plans can take a lot off cial throughout the fu- of your plate during this neral planning process, stressful time, so look out and it will also inform for any extra details that you of anyone else to be in- are included in the will. If volved in the planning. For there are no funeral plans example, they may want a specified, then you will sibling or close friend to need to decide on suitable

4. Decide on type of funeral & arrange funeral services

There are a few different Take time to select a fu-types of funerals to choose

After you learn more about the options available, reach out to a funeral director to proceed with the service. In most cases, they will identify any gaps you need to fill in with the funeral plans. For example, they will ask if you want to publish an obituary, provide the de-Here is a step-by-step nal arrangement requests tails for flower vendors, coordinate picture slideshows, etc. Each of these tasks may seem monumental at the time, but a staff member will likely be there to help you through each step.

5. Confirm cemetery arrangements

The next step is to make • What type of memorial arrangements with the cemetery you have selected. This will involve meeting with the head of the cemetery to purchase a plot or vault and to coordinate a burial time. Again, the director of the funeral home will likely be there to advise you through this process.

At this time you will also need to make a few personal decisions about the burial. This involves deciding on the casket, urn, or grave marker to use. Purchase the necessary items as you confirm cemetery arrangements. You will also need to coordinate a time to host the graveside service or burial.

5. Decide on any other memorial service details

In addition to cemetery and funeral arrangements, you may also want to plan an additional memorial service. This can be a larger gathering for extended family members and friends to say their goodbyes.

PLANNING » PAGE 10

tarting *the* Conversation Advanced planning for your funeral arrangements and your final resting place is the ultimate gift of love. When someone dies, grieving friends and family are often confronted with dozens of decisions that need to be made quickly, and often under emotional duress. Take the first step, and contact us today. You may be surprised how easy it can be. 734-783-2646 For Funeral Home Michigan Memorial 734-782-2473 For Park www.MiMemorial.com

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It is customary for funerals to take place soon after someone passes away, which forces the planning process to move quickly.

With four convenient locations across the Downriver Community, Molnar Funeral Homes has been a name that families can trust for 100 years. Established in 1923, and currently entering our fifth generation, we are known for our compassionate service and

unwavering dedication to providing comfort to families during their most difficult times.

Molnar Funeral Homes distinguishes itself by offering a comprehensive range of services, from traditional funeral ceremonies to cremation options. Our commitment to personalization is evident in every service we provide. Understanding that each life is unique, our team collaborates closely with families to create services that authentically reflect the individuality of their loved ones. From crafting

> personalized printing materials and laser-etched keepsakes facilitating themed receptions, we strive to make every



farewell a truly meaningful and memorable experience.

Each of our four facilities is meticulously maintained, equipped with modern technology, and designed to offer all the comforts of home. When selecting cremation, you have the option

of choosing The On-Site Crematory, a subsidiary of J&A Cremation, Inc. This crematory is located conveniently at our Brownstown Facility, adding the extra peace of mind of knowing that your loved one never leaves our care. The On-Site Crematory is operated by Professional Crematory Specialists who abide by exceptional procedures, policies, and high standards.

Molnar Funeral Homes also encourages preplanning. Pre-planning alleviates stress and ensures peace of mind for your family. They are left with fewer difficult decisions to make during an emotional time. It allows you to communicate your final wishes so that when that time comes, your family will know exactly how to honor your life, memory, and legacy.

Whenever you are ready, you may schedule an appointment at any of our four locations or even within the comfort of your own home. Every month we offer a Peace of Mind seminar in a casual atmosphere where we will answer any questions you may have. Our Pre-Planning specialists will help guide you and your family through all of the decisions that need to be made.

> Whether before, during, or after services, we are committed to being with you and your family every step of the way.





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Planning

FROM PAGE 7

It is also a good time to invite people to be involved in the funeral or memorial service planning. If you want a any accounts, notify credloved one to deliver the Eulogy, speak a few words, or tions, and eventually take even greet family members control of the deceased's fi-— let them know as soon as you have a few details figured out.

6. Invite friends and family to the services

Let family and friends know as soon as you finalize the funeral details. Many people will use email or social media to share the news, as it may be emotionally difficult to call everyone who wants to attend. That being said, it is a custom practice to call close family and friends when inviting them.

Be sure to share information about where to send flowers or donations at this time. If you are hosting a unique service, you will also want to tell people what to wear to the memorial or exor gifts.

7. Arrange for obituary, if desired

published in the local newspaper sharing details about the deceased's life and in some cases the memorial details. Reach out to your local newspaper with this information as well as a photograph they may want shared. The funeral director may offer to coordinate this provide the necessary information if you want an obituary published.

8. Handle estate and financial matters

Finalizing the funeral plans will allow you to move on to financial matters and the future.

proceed with the estate plan. Review the will and any Funeral plans are extremely trust documents with the depersonal, and offer a way for ceased person's legal representative, as they will know where to begin.

Typically at this time, you will need to work to close itors and financial institunances. Assuming you are the executor of the estate, vou will also notify any heirs of their inheritances and delegate the necessary assets.

common to die without a will or estate plan. This can leave the deceased's spouse know how to cover these or close loved one in charge expenses. Consider using a of planning the entire funeral and navigating their the funeral home or cremaassets through Probate.

Other helpful tips for planning a funeral

steps on how to plan a funeral can leave you with a reduce overall costs. This few additional questions. Read through these helpful tips as you walk through the process:

- pect at the event. Let people Many families prefer to reknow how they can celebrate ceive donations instead of the life of the deceased and flowers during the memoalso where to send any notes rial service. This can be a to reduce costs including: great time to contribute to a charity that the deceased service at home was passionate about and preserve their legacy.
 - Consider payment op-An obituary is an article tions. Estate plans will typ- a burial ically include how to cover end-of-life expenses, for example, by using life insurance proceeds. If they do not mention this, consider to plan a funeral? financing through the funeral provider or using savings to pay for the necessary services.
- cess but be prepared to pro- known. if you are in the situation of planning a funeral It is customary for funerfor a close relative, con- als to take place soon after self. It can be challenging to to move quickly. think about but leaving behind your wishes could take For more information the stress away from your about planning a funeral spouse or close relative in

• Remember the options. people to say goodbye and grieve loved ones. Remember that there is no requirement saying you are required to host a traditional funeral. Think about how the deceased would want their final arrangements handled and follow your instincts.

How to plan a funeral with no money

Funerals can cost thou-Unfortunately, it is all too sands of dollars on average, and without an estate plan, it can be difficult to payment plan provided by tion site. There are also several ways to minimize expenses as you plan the service and burial.

Natural funerals are be-Walking through the coming increasingly common as families attempt to eco-friendly option can reduce expenses by choosing natural materials for caskets, eliminating large • Think about donations. markers or gravestones, and avoiding the embalming process. Aside from natural burials, there are other ways

- Hosting the memorial
- Opting for a direct burial or graveside service
- Choosing cremation over
- Researching multiple funeral homes

How long does it take

Typically it takes one to two weeks to plan a funeral - though it can be short- Make your wishes ened if the deceased left behind clear instructions. sider how you want these someone passes away, which matters handled for your- forces the planning process

> or creating an estate plan, visit trustandwill.com.

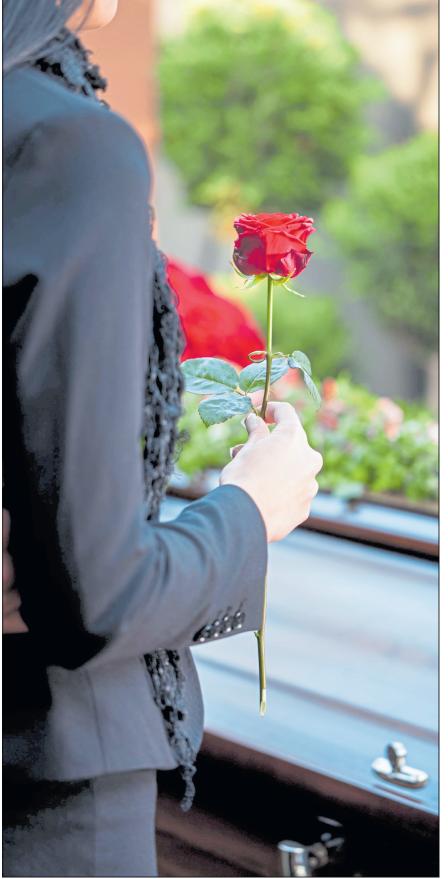


PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

There are a few different types of funerals to choose from to honor the deceased.

ESTATE PLANNING

What to know about life insurance

Metro Creative Connection

Millions of adults go to great lengths to protect their assets. Those measures run the gamut from simple everyday efforts like utilizing two-factor authentication when accessing financial accounts via online or mobile banking apps to more complicated undertakings like estate planning. Life insurance is a component of estate planning that is vital to anyone looking to protect their assets in the event of their death.

Explaining life insurance

Life insurance is both similar to and different from other types of insurance. Like homeowners and auto insurance policies, life insurance provides financial protection in difficult circumstances. A life insurance policy is a contract between an insurance coverage they need. provider and a policyholder that guarantees a payout to beneficiaries designated by the insured individual in the wake of that individual's death.

Personal history

Insurance providers differ, but individuals interested in life insurance can expect to be asked about their medical histories and lifestyle habits when discussing policies.

Prospective policyholders will often be asked to sign waivers that allow providers to access their medical records. This is necessary so companies can get an idea of the health of the person applying for life insurance, which will determine the cost of a policy. That information, as well as family history, is the wake of a policyholder's death. important because it can serve as an indicator of future health risks. Some until the policyholder's death so long variables, including lifestyle habits like as he or she continues to pay the presmoking, won't necessarily appear on miums on time. Financial advisors can an individual's medical history. In an help individuals understand the ins effort to address that, insurance providers typically ask prospective policy- nent life insurance policies, which difholders to answer a variety of questions fer from term life policies because they about their lifestyle, including whether can serve as investment vehicles and or not they smoke and how much al- sources of loans in certain instances. cohol they consume. It's vital that individuals answer these questions hon- asset protection that can offer peace of estly, as companies can deny payouts to mind to policyholders who want to enbeneficiaries if they determine policy- sure their loved ones are provided for holders misled them during the appli- in the wake of their death.

cation process.

Coverage

Coverage needs vary depending on the individual. Life insurance is intended to provide for loved ones in the aftermath of a policyholder's death. How much money will those individuals need to pay their bills? Young adults who are just starting their families may want more coverage than aging adults who have already paid off their homes and saved a considerable amount for retirement. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners recommends that individuals ask themselves how much of the family income they provide and if anyone else, such as an aging parent, depends on them for financial support. Answering these questions can help individuals determine how much

Types of coverage

Insurance providers offer various types of life insurance policies. Term life policies are among the most popular because they tend to be affordable while offering substantial coverage. There are different types of term life policies, but policies tend to run for anywhere from 10 to 30 years and expire around the time individuals reach retirement

That's because many people save enough for retirement and don't have the sizable expenses, such as a mortgage, to account for at this point in their lives. That means loved ones won't necessarily need to be provided for in

Permanent life insurance policies last and outs of the various types of perma-

Life insurance is a vital component of



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Like homeowners and auto insurance policies, life insurance provides financial protection in difficult circumstances.



Life insurance is intended to provide for loved ones in the aftermath of a policy holder's







Our chapels are conveniently located in Dearborn, Taylor and our newly renovated chapel in Allen Park.

Family owned and operated for over 70 years. We continue to service families in the community by providing traditional burials to simple cremations. We also offer the option to preplan by documenting your wishes with our funeral home.

Preplanning is simple, secure and one of the best ways to help your family during their difficult time of grief and loss.

There are many advantages in preplanning, but most importantly, it ensures that your wishes will be carried out down to the last detail.

Did you know that that families who prefund their final wishes are locked into today's costs? Contact us to set up a free no obligation appointment 313-928-2300.

For more information on prices and services, call us or submit an inquiry on our website at www.voranfuneralhome.com

☐ Yes, please contact me to set up
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preplanning.

	No, I'm not ready to meet, but
olease	mail me some information.

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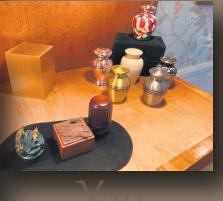
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ESTATE PLANNING



When naming a charity as a beneficiary, it can be wise to inform family members and other beneficiaries so no one is caught off guard upon your death.

How to make a charity a beneficiary

Metro Creative Connection

Giving to charity can be a reter they have died.

Incorporating a charity into

their wills. A financial planner, zations. It's relatively the same like real estate or cars, it may ple are urged to discuss all opwarding endeavor that makes attorney or accountant can an- process to name a charity as a be best to contact the charity in tions with estate planners to ena difference in the lives of peo- swer the more complex questions beneficiary as it is an individual. advance to ensure they are able sure their plans fully reflect their ple in need. Many people do- individuals have about naming According to the resource Trust to accept such gifts. Finally, be wishes. nate throughout their lives, and charities as beneficiaries in a & Will, first identify the charity sure to include your wishes in some people may want to impart will. In the meantime, this gen- that will be supported, includ- an estate plan. A qualified attor- beneficiary, it can be wise to ina more lasting legacy by continueral guide can serve as a solid ing getting its Employer Iden-ney can help clients draft a will form family members and other ing to support a charity even affoundation for individuals who tification Number or Taxpayer that spells out their wishes in beneficiaries so no one is caught

an estate plan is a great way to ciaries as loved ones, but a ben- make, which may be a predeter- eficiaries on life insurance poli- held up by delays in executing

dividuals may not know how to tity one chooses to leave money gift of property, or other assets counts. They also can be listed

make charities beneficiaries in to, including nonprofit organi- like stocks. For large donations on bank accounts. Again, peowant to give back in their wills. Identification Number. Next, detail. Keep in mind that char- off guard upon your death. This Most people think of benefi- determine which type of gift to ities also can be named as ben- way the charitable gift is not continue giving after you die. In- eficiary can be any person or en- mined financial contribution, a cies or individual retirement ac- the will.

When naming a charity as a





Gerald M. Morello, Jr., Esq. President, Morello Law Group, P.C.

EDUCATION

B.S.A., with High Honors in Finance and Managerial Economics, University of Michigan – Dearborn; J.D., Higgins Scholar and Notre Dame Law School Scholar, Notre Dame Law School; M.B.A., with Honors, University of Notre Dame Graduate Business School.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Estate Planning; Elder Law; Tax Planning; Wills; Trusts and Estates; Probate and Trust Administration; Business Law; and Business Planning.

CAREER

Mr. Morello has personally developed or supervised over 10,000 Estate plans over the past 30 years. He is a frequent speaker on estate and business planning; selected as Downriver's Estate and Business Planning Attorney; selected as one of Detroit's top estate planning lawyers by DBusiness Magazine; awarded the Five Star Professional by Martindale-Hubbell Platinum Client Award; Northville Record People's Choice Award for Best Attorney.

It's Time to Review your Estate Plan ... Again

By: Gerald M. Morello, Jr., Esq.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017

President Trump's 2017 Tax Act provides a great opportunity to simplify your estate planning and to better provide for the future of your children and grandchildren. The following is a brief list of estate planning issues that should be part of any discussion.

REVIEW OF ESTATE PLAN

The beginning of the year is an ideal time to review your estate plan. Time flies, and your estate plan needs to keep current.

First, think about the key appointees within your documents. Are you still comfortable with who you've selected to handle your financial and medical affairs if you pass away, or become incapacitated? Second, are your beneficiaries up to date? Third, does your trust provide age (or other) restrictions on your beneficiaries and what is most appropriate now based on your beneficiaries' current circumstances? Lastly, if you do not have a comprehensive estate plan in place, now is the time to develop one.

IRA CONDUIT TRUST

The Secure Act went in to effect January 1, 2020. It dramatically changes the distribution rules for most beneficiaries. The stretch IRA is eliminated for most beneficiaries in favor of a new 10 year rule. This significant tax rule change makes a current estate plane even more important. IRA rules are complex, yet critically important in the estate planning arena. Most clients have retirement accounts, and desire to continue the power of tax deferral for the beneficiary after one's death. A properly designed Revocable Living Trust requires appropriate provisions to ensure continued tax deferral on these accounts for the beneficiaries.

SIMPLIFIED PLANNING FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Historically, a married couple needed to establish two separate AB type Trusts to protect both the husband's, as well as the wife's, exemptions against the Federal Estate Tax. For a married couple, if you did not "protect it," you would "lose it." Now, with proper planning, most married couples can protect both the spouse's exemptions against the Federal Estate Tax by doing some very simple, straight-forward planning. This simplified approach will not always be appropriate planning; it's based on many factors the clients should be made aware of.

LADY BIRD DEEDS

Our offices utilize Lady Bird Deeds to protect a primary residence during a nursing home stay from the Medicaid spend-down rules, while ensuring that, at death, the home ultimately is transferred to the Trust in order to avoid the Michigan Estate Recovery Act. This Act provides the State of Michigan with the ability to be reimbursed for Medicaid costs by extracting the reimbursement from the sale of the primary residence after the taxpayer has passed away.

MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

Your estate plan should be reviewed on a regular basis with an experienced estate planning attorney to ensure your important legal affairs are in good order. Remember that there are many issues to address, so make sure you are fully informed of what is right for you.

If you would like further information, or to schedule an appointment to discuss your current estate planning needs, please contact Morello Law Group, P.C. at 734-281-6464 or 248-347-2950 or morellolawgroup.com.

Here are some additional recommendations on what to consider when updating your estate plan:

- Prepare or update a Revocable Living Trust to avoid probate court, eliminate government interference, maintain privacy, simplify administration and protect your family's estate.
- Review ownership and beneficiary designation to make certain they are owned or "funded" in the name of your Trust. Do not put a child on the deed to your home, stocks or mutual funds due to adverse tax consequences.
- Roll-over 401k plan monies after changing jobs, or at retirement, to an IRA account.
- Review selection of Executor, Trustee, Guardians for minor children, and Financial and Medical Advocate.
- Determine whether your estate plan contemplates recent tax rules and 2020 IRA rules changes.
- Review your total net worth, and determine whether your estate plan is appropriate.
- Determine whether you have acquired real estate since your Trust was developed and whether ownership of that real estate is appropriate.
- Determine whether your heirs' circumstances have changed, which might affect your planning, such as a disability, births, deaths, marriage or divorce.
- Consider provisions in your Trust to provide monies for younger heirs for education and health care, and an age requirement to receive the inheritance, such as age 25.

Experienced | Trustworthy | Compassionate



Morello Law Group, P.C. is a full service law firm representing clients throughout Southeastern Michigan. We take great pride in our organized, proactive approach to providing top quality legal and professional services to our clients. Morello Law Group attorneys take a team approach to providing legal services to clients. The firm's team approach allows each client to have his or her legal affairs handled by an experienced attorney of the firm. This approach provides clients with the highest level of service in the most efficient manner. Morello Law Group has 9 attorneys and over 20 paraprofessionals on staff to assist you. We welcome the opportunity to assist you with your legal needs.



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