

# The Power of a Plan



Did you know that  
planning your future now  
can help secure the  
future of your family,  
friends and the causes  
important to you  
forever?



# Planning for Your Future is Easier Than You Think

Many believe planning for the future is an expensive, long process, but often this assumption is inaccurate. Creating a plan is less about form and procedure and more about considering all the people and causes that are important to you. The reality is more like this:

- Many assets can be transferred outside of your will.
- A well-written will can be a couple of pages long.
- If you do not create a plan, the state will create a plan for you, and that plan may not match your goals.

Recent studies show that nearly half of all Americans have not prepared a will.



## What Happens if You Fail to Plan

Failing to plan can mean accidentally disinheriting those you love. Here are a few things to consider that will enable you to provide for the people and causes you care about most:

- A will gives you the ability to direct how you want your assets distributed.
- A living trust avoids probate and gives you flexibility now and after you pass away.
- Life insurance, joint accounts and trusts pass assets outside of probate. With proper planning, these assets can go to your beneficiaries automatically.

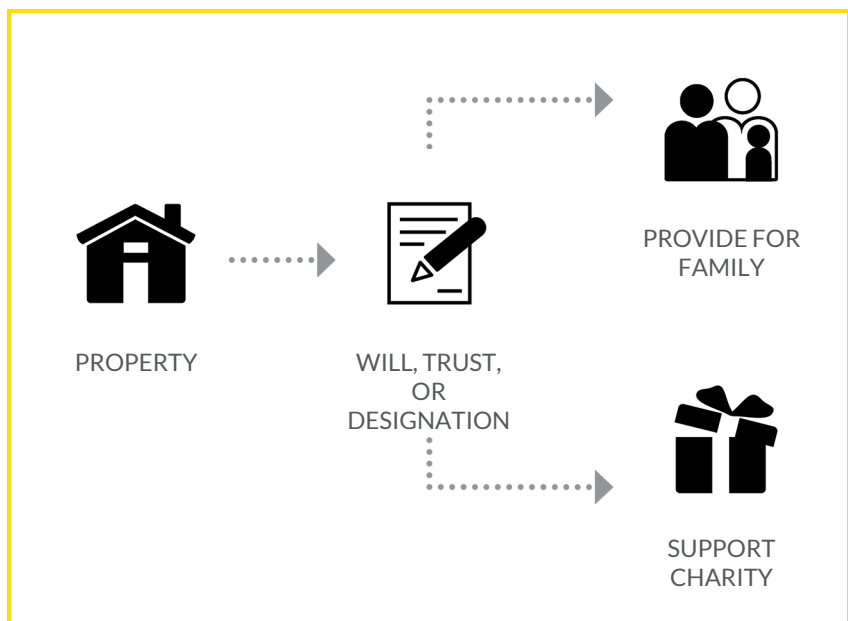
# The Benefits of Creating Your Plan

In addition to unparalleled peace of mind, creating your plan provides advantages that begin now and continue forever. Here are some of the many ways a plan can benefit you and your loved ones:

- You can avoid or limit taxes for your heirs.
- You can include healthcare and end-of-life instructions so even if you cannot speak for yourself, others will clearly know your wishes.
- You can appoint a guardian to care for your minor children.
- You can live every day knowing you have not left your life's work to chance. You will know the good works you do today will continue tomorrow.

Our Estate Planning Guide can save you money when you visit your attorney because you will have already considered many important planning questions.

## Charitable Bequest



# Definitions

## **Will**

A written document that lets you state how you want your property or estate distributed, as well as name who you want to handle your affairs for you after you pass away.

## **Living Trust**

A document set up during your life that controls the assets you transfer to it, avoids probate and may be kept private.

## **Probate**

A public procedure where a court directs the administration of your estate that generally follows your will, if you have one, or makes decisions according to state law if you fail to plan.

## **Durable Power of Attorney**

A document prepared by an attorney that allows you to select someone to make healthcare and other important decisions on your behalf.



## Let Us Help You

Call or email us so we can send you a simple illustration showing how you can use various assets to benefit friends and family and to help the charitable causes important to you. We can share different strategies so you can compare and contrast the advantages and benefits of each.

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