

Estate Planning

Estate planning includes drafting wills, durable powers of attorney, health care powers of attorney, living wills and other documents that help care for you or your estate. An estate plan helps to ensure that your wishes are carried out in the event that you are unable to take care of things yourself due to temporary or terminal illness, mental incapacity or death. A proper estate plan makes sure that your property, financial affairs and health care are handled the way you decide.

Who should have an estate plan? Everyone.

- Whether you have a small or large estate, it does not matter.
- If you have children, you may wish to nominate a guardian and/or conservator to care for them when you are not there.
- If you have recently been through a divorce, an estate plan is good idea since your assets and responsibilities have just changed drastically.
- If you are planning a long trip to a faraway place, designating a durable power of attorney will allow a spouse, family member or friend to handle business in your absence.
- If you are concerned about how your health care will be handled when you cannot communicate with your doctors, you may wish to designate a health care power of attorney to ensure that your wishes are known.