



DIY Estate Planning Worksheet

You can take steps yourself to prepare for the unexpected, and make your wishes known.

The best thing about estate planning is it helps prevent discord among your loved ones. Your wishes will be spelled out! Bonus: your loved ones will avoid Probate Court, which is a huge financial savings.

Take the time today to protect yourself and your loved ones! Here are some strategies to consider:

[] 1. **Make your intended heir a joint owner** of your assets: house, bank account, etc. The benefit of this method is that there is no question of who the asset belongs to in the event of your death. You must be certain your intended heir is trustworthy.

[] 2. **Set up your will.** You can draw up a simple will directing who should receive your assets. The will needs to be witnessed. ([Simple Will](#); [Simple Will with Trust](#))

[] 3. **Create a Power of Attorney.** Who will manage your bills if you are in a coma, or otherwise unable to manage your affairs? With a Power of Attorney, you can choose someone you trust. You can specify whether you want the document to be active all the time, or only after a triggering event. You can complete a POA with this [free link](#).

[] 4. **Obtain life insurance**, and name your beneficiary. Life insurance can be critical, especially if you have children. Be sure to update the beneficiary if you get married or divorced.

[] 5. **Check all other plans for beneficiaries.** Just as with life insurance policies, you want to be sure the beneficiaries of any other benefits are correct. Double check any retirement accounts or other benefits you may have through your workplace.

[] 6. **Prepare for the transfer of your digital accounts.** At a minimum, make a list of your online and financial accounts, so your loved ones know what they are. You can also set up a Legacy contact on your Facebook in the Settings menu. (For more information: [New York Times](#), [PC Magazine](#), [Lifehacker](#))

After considering these steps, you'll be well on your way to planning your estate.

If you need help, Summit Law Office is here. **Estate planning is for everyone, and it doesn't have to break the bank.** If you would like to talk about the benefits and drawbacks of each strategy in more detail, call us.

Even if you decide to speak with us, going through these steps first will save you time and money. You'll know more and have better questions right off the bat!

Why hire an attorney? You can absolutely complete the steps above yourself. But an attorney can help you fit the pieces of your estate plan together, and make sure they don't overlap in a way that defeats your goals. Let us know if we can help today!