

The Critical Elements of An Estate Plan

Everyone needs an estate plan. Your estate plan is your final love letter to your family to relieve them of the burden of difficult decisions when you die. It allows them to grieve you, rather than be overcome with difficult decisions.

Your Will

A will lays out what you want to happen with regard to property and assets after you die. However, a will only comes into play once you've passed away so the Powers of Attorney are the most important documents while you're still alive.

Financial Power of Attorney

A Power of Attorney is a legal document that allows someone else (an agent) to act on your (the principal's) behalf. A financial Power of Attorney applies solely to managing your financial affairs.

Medical Power of Attorney

This gives the agent the power to make medical or healthcare decisions on your behalf.

Living Will

This allows the agent under a Power of Attorney to know exactly what you want in certain situations such as what medical treatment or care you would, or would not want, if you become too sick to speak for yourself.

Planning for Dementia

This enables you to plan for the kind of care you want later in life in cases of mild, moderate and severe dementia. Planning now avoids unnecessary heartache for our loved ones, as well as our own suffering, if our wishes aren't followed.

HIPAA Release

This ensures that your medical information will be available to those who love you and that they will be able to make decisions regarding your medical care.

Last Wishes Declaration

This lets your family know what you want to happen at your funeral, or memorial service, and with your remains.

All of these elements work together to ensure that in the event of your death, and should you need care later on in life, your family knows what you want and those wishes will be respected.

Kate Silburn, Elder Law Attorney

In addition to estate planning, Kate assists her clients with estate administration and probate, probate litigation and Guardianships and Conservatorships.

Her dual credentials of a Masters of Divinity and Juris Doctor make her uniquely qualified to help families navigate end-of-life issues.



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