



Estate Planning



“Just a couple of helpful hints that may help you in making that emotional decision”

WHO GETS ME?

When creating a Trust or a Last Will and Testament my clients are required to think about their mortality, their estate, their money, and who will inherit what. Often just the very thought of all this can be so stressful that these important documents never get prepared.

We all would like to believe we are invincible, but the time will come when important decisions will have to be made and it is best to have these estate documents ready for when you or your family will need to take action.

Here are just a couple of helpful hints that may help you in making those decisions and possibly help relieve the emotions that become the stumbling blocks in estate planning.

Compromise. If you or your partner cannot agree as to which one of your family members will be the Trustee or Executor; who will be the guardian and/or conservator for any minor children; who will inherit what assets; and of course, where shall the family pet live, then, think about the possibility of compromise.

Example: If you are not in agreement as to who shall be the Trustee or Executor, then think about possibly making them co-trustees or co-executors. Choosing both rather than choosing one over the other can solve hurt feelings all the way around. Sometimes it is best to find someone other than a family member, such as a mutual friend or financial advisor (i.e. bank or CPA), to act as Trustee or Executor.

Another Example: If you have minor children, and there is a disagreement as to which side of the family gets custody, remind yourselves that the main goal is to ensure your children will be raised in a healthy, stable environment. Perhaps they have a favorite Aunt or Uncle, or leaving them with family members that live close by your child's school and friends may prove to be less traumatic for them.

Decisions don't have to be permanent. As you are discussing your desires, remember to remind yourselves that Revocable Living Trusts and Last Will and Testaments can be amended. Nothing has to be written in stone. If later, you decide to make a change, that change can be made through an amendment or a codicil.

If you need to prepare a Trust or a Will, have changes that need to be made to existing estate planning documents, or have questions you would like answered, please contact me and I will be happy to help you.

~Suzette Brown~

Certified Paralegal
Arizona Certified Legal Document Preparer

