SPECIAL ESTATE PLANNING ISSUE

Create Your Legacy

7 Reasons to Update Your Estate Plan

... and what happens if you don't!

The Truth About Probate

Think the courts will protect your assets and your loved ones after you're gone? Think again!

3 Estate Planning Concerns Young Families Can't Ignore!

Famous Estates

Find out how celebrity estates fared without an estate plan

The Future of Legal Services

It's all about to change! Here's what you need to know to take advantage of this fantastic new era!

Plus...

Easy Ways to Stay Active and Healthy

What To Do With That 529 Plan

And More!!

The Truth About PROBATE

Chances are, you already know at least a little about the dangers of probate.

Maybe you've heard stories from friends, or maybe you've experienced first-hand what it's like when a family member's estate sits in limbo while the probate process trudges on.

And regardless of the source or the details, you know that probate is something you should avoid if you can... but is it really the "monster under the bed" that we should all fear?

Yes and no.

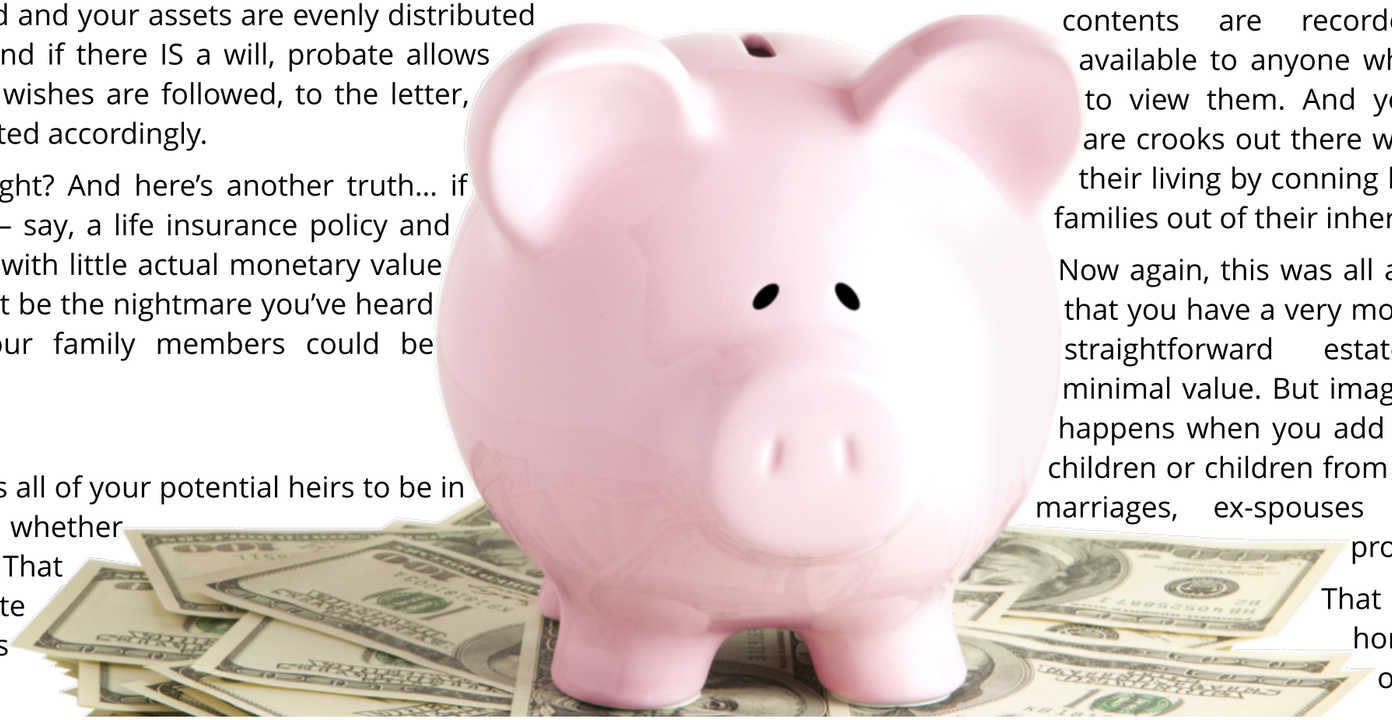
The truth is, probate is a necessary evil that acts as a safety net for your estate.

In the event that you pass without a will, the court can use the probate process to see that your creditors are paid and your assets are evenly distributed between your rightful heirs. And if there IS a will, probate allows the court to ensure that your wishes are followed, to the letter, and that your estate is distributed accordingly.

That doesn't sound so bad, right? And here's another truth... if your estate is relatively small – say, a life insurance policy and some basic personal property with little actual monetary value – the resulting probate may not be the nightmare you've heard about and the hassle to your family members could be minimal.

But that's a really big "IF"...

See, a smooth probate requires all of your potential heirs to be in full agreement, regardless of whether there's a Will in place or not. That means even the smallest dispute could slow down the process and tie up your estate for months, creating a financial and emotional hardship for everyone involved. An estranged family member could contest your Will for example, or there could be a disagreement over who should inherit your grandmother's quilt. And if and when any of those disputes arise, the court will decide the outcome. In some cases, that means that the property in question is sold, so that the proceeds can be split equally among the heirs. In other cases, it may mean that your Will is overturned and your belongings are bequeathed to someone other than who you intended.



And even if your probate goes off without a hitch, there's still a price to pay. Probate isn't cheap and the courts will take their fees right out of your estate.

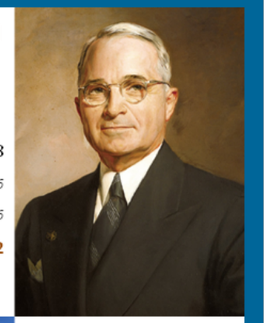
Another thing to remember is that probate is a public affair. That means that your estate and its contents are recorded and available to anyone who wants to view them. And yes, there are crooks out there who make their living by conning bereaved families out of their inheritance.

Now again, this was all assuming that you have a very modest and straightforward estate with minimal value. But imagine what happens when you add in minor children or children from different marriages, ex-spouses or real property.

That vacation home you own in

FAMOUS ESTATES

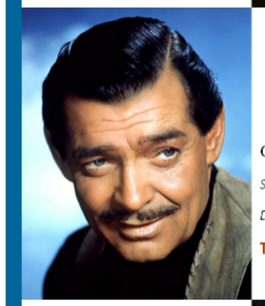
HARRY S. TRUMAN (1884–1972)



37% Shrinkage

Gross Estate	$747,648
Settlement Costs:	*$90,986*
Death Taxes:	*$188,666*
Total Costs:	**$279,652**

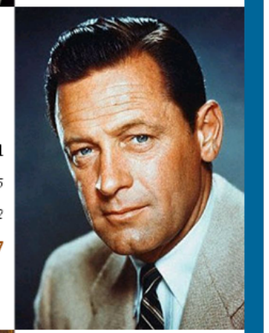
CLARK GABLE (1901–1960)



28% Shrinkage

Gross Estate	$2,806,526
Settlement Costs:	*$377,887*
Death Taxes:	*$394,924*
Total Costs:	**$772,811**

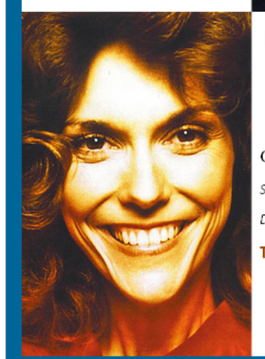
WILLIAM HOLDEN (1918–1981)



39% Shrinkage

Gross Estate	$6,064,731
Settlement Costs:	*$322,005*
Death Taxes:	*$2,018,052*
Total Costs:	**$2,340,057**

KAREN CARPENTER (1950–1983)



47% Shrinkage

Gross Estate	$6,110,476
Settlement Costs:	*$317,500*
Death Taxes:	*$2,549,731*
Total Costs:	**$2,867,231**

Would you like to see more famous estates? Then check out our *Famous Estates* course where we highlight 47 celebrity estates... it's free with your membership!

Special Retirement Section!



THE TRUTH ABOUT PROBATE

continued

another state? That's a completely different jurisdiction and a completely different probate process.

Can your ex-spouse claim rights to part of your retirement plan? If you haven't specified a beneficiary they certainly can, and until your estate has been fully settled, your family can't touch those funds.

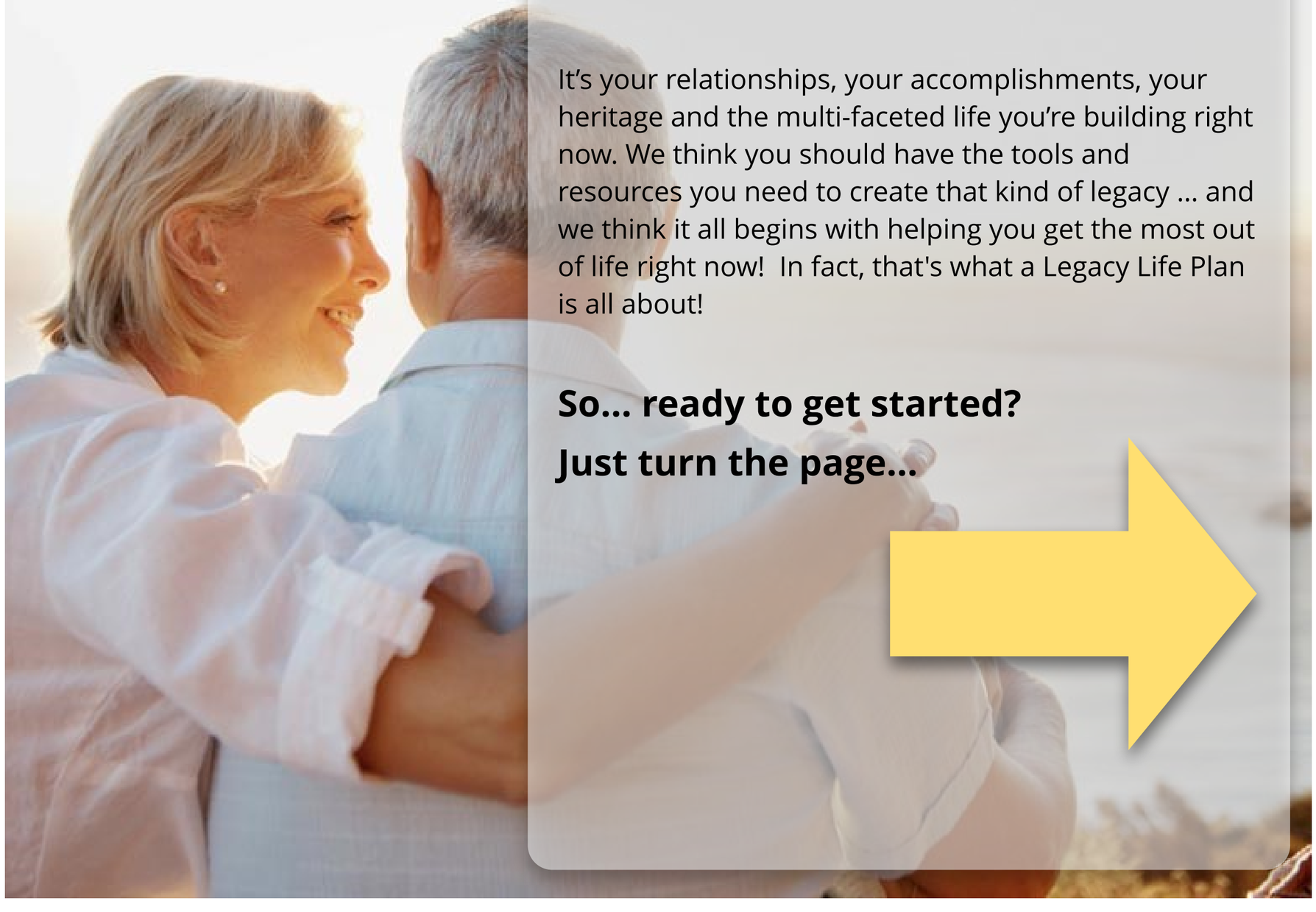
And obviously, the more complex the estate, the more probate will cost and the longer it will take to sort out.

So, is probate really the monster-under-the-bed we should all fear?

Maybe... maybe not. But given the potential cost and emotional strain it could cause your loved ones, it's definitely something you want to avoid if you can.

Fortunately, your Legacy Life Plan Memberships includes a No Probate Guarantee... visit Augulis.LegacyLifePlan.com/no-probate to learn more!

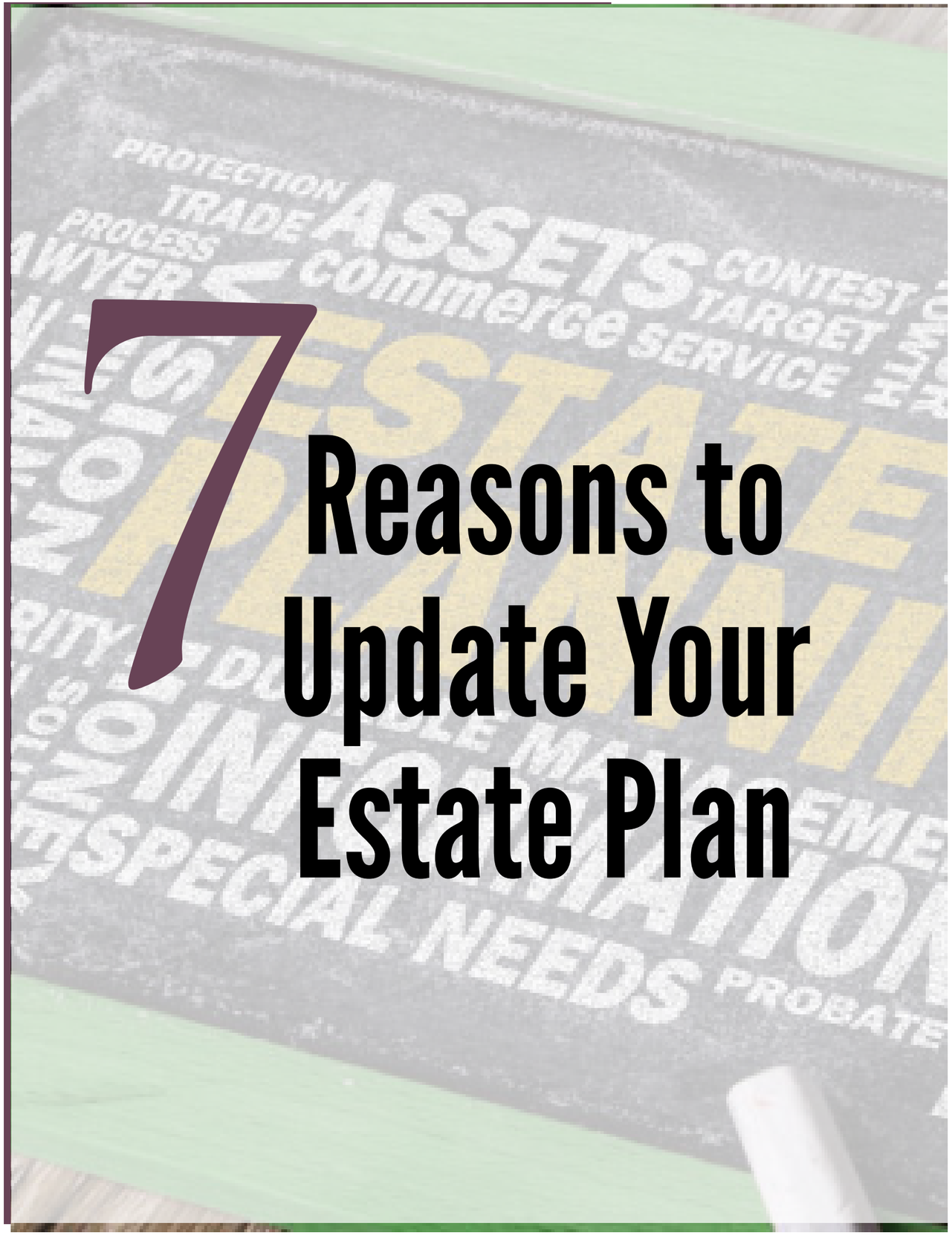
Your legacy is **more than just the assets** you leave behind...



It's your relationships, your accomplishments, your heritage and the multi-faceted life you're building right now. We think you should have the tools and resources you need to create that kind of legacy ... and we think it all begins with helping you get the most out of life right now! In fact, that's what a Legacy Life Plan is all about!

So... ready to get started?

Just turn the page...



Creating your estate plan is an important step in protecting your assets and your loved ones after you're gone. Unfortunately, for most people, this is a one-and-done kind of process.

You sign the Will, you fund the Trust, and the papers are filed away for safe-keeping, never to be looked at again.

But that protection you're counting on is only as good as the plan that provides it… and if your plan is out of date, it may not be providing much protection at all.

Here's 7 reasons you might want to talk about updating:

Marriage and Divorce – Have you or a family member experienced a change in relationship status? A new marriage or divorce could easily (and drastically!) change how your assets are distributed and unless you update your plan, there's no guarantee those new relationships will be handled the way you want. And speaking of getting married…

Births – Estate planning for young families presents some very different challenges than that of a family where the children are all grown up. If you have a new child in your family, now is the time to ensure your plan provides the right protections.

Deaths – Has one of your beneficiaries passed away? Updating your plan ensures your Trustee doesn't have to certify this change down the road, which could be a timely AND costly process.

Change in Income or Assets – There are a number of changes that may be necessary, depending on what kind of change you've experienced and how big it is. If your income increases substantially for example, your estate may now be taxable and you'll want to take steps to reduce those taxes as much as possible. On the other hand, if your income has drastically dropped, you may need to rethink your funding objectives or how your assets will be distributed.

Change in Goals – Your estate plan gives you the ability to determine far more than just who gets what. You could for instance, offer an incentive for your grandchildren to go to college or you could limit asset distribution until an heir achieves a certain goal. But over time, those objectives may change. Your grandchildren may have already graduated from college for example, or the heir that gave you concern has turned their life around and become very responsible with their money. Changes like these require a change in your plan… otherwise, your beneficiaries may not be able to access their inheritance the way you'd like.

New Laws and Regulations – Every so often, new laws are passed that have a direct effect on your estate plan. Ditto for financial regulations. And when that happens, your plan may need an update just to stay compliant with current legislation.

New Strategies – Your estate plan can include a number of financial vehicles and as our society grows and evolves, so do the tools we use to manage our money. So, it's no surprise that the strategies we're using now may not be the best strategies down the road… and an update is the only way to be sure your plan is doing everything it should.

3 Estate Planning Concerns
Young Families Can't Ignore!

Estate plans have traditionally been seen as reserved for the elderly, the very wealthy and/or those with complicated estates... certainly not for young families just starting out. But the truth is, everyone needs an estate plan and in fact, there are some unique concerns that make estate planning a MUST for young families.

See, most young couples believe that there's no need for an estate plan, and why should they? You've got each other... if something were to happen to you, your spouse would be right there to step in.

But what happens if the unthinkable were to occur? If something happened to you and your spouse... who would take care of your children? This is known as Guardianship, and it's a real concern for young families.

Think about it: you're not just looking for someone to babysit - we're talking about needing someone to raise your children in your absence... we're talking about the possibility that you might not be coming back.

And that raises a variety of questions: *Would they be raised with the same values and beliefs? How will they be disciplined? Where will they live? What about religion? Education? Will they have the same upbringing that you would have given them?*

And then there's the issue of the estate itself.

See, without an estate plan, your estate would be held in a minor trust until your child turns 18. But once your child crosses that threshold, he or she is considered an adult and the court steps out of the way. After all, at 18, your child can apply for a credit card and sign a contract. They are legally mature in the eyes of the court... but are they ready to inherit your entire estate in one lump sum?

And that brings up another concern - who will oversee that trust until your child inherits? It shouldn't be the same person that raises him or her - that could create some serious conflicts of interest. So then, who? How can you be sure that your assets are managed with your child's best interest in mind?

That's where a good estate plan can help. With the right plan, you can leave explicit instructions for who you want to raise your children AND how they should be raised. You can protect your assets while they're in trust and you can even continue that protection even after your child turns 18.

A smart estate plan can also help you grow those assets, provide incentives for your children to succeed and safeguard your wealth from creditors, con artists and lawsuits. It is - next to being there yourself - the best way to ensure your children are protected and provided for, even after you're gone**.**

Want to learn more about special estate planning solutions? Just visit the Estate Planning section of your Member's online library to learn more or call our office to talk about your options!

