

CHARITYSMITH

good lives, well remembered



Estate Planning Checklist

How to Begin

Take Inventory - Make a list of all your assets, including:

- Real estate
- Investments
- Bank accounts
- Retirement accounts
- Life insurance policies
- Personal property

Set Goals - Determine your estate planning goals.

Consider who you want to:

- Inherit your assets
- Care for your dependents
- Make charitable contributions to
- Start a memorial fund or scholarship fund

Create Key Documents – Work with an attorney or use estate planning software to create essential documents. This includes:

- Will
- Power of attorney
- Health Care proxy
- Trust (potentially)

Appoint an Executor – Choose a trustworthy individual to carry out your wishes and manage your estate.

- Choose an executor

Review and Update – Regularly review and update your estate plan as life circumstances evolve, such as marriages, births, deaths, or significant financial changes.

Helpful Tips

Seek Professional Guidance – Consult with an experienced attorney to ensure your documents are legally sound.

Consider a Trust – Depending on your assets and goals, a trust may be an effective tool for managing your estate and avoiding probate.

Communicate Your Wishes – Discuss your estate plan with your loved ones to avoid surprises and potential conflicts.

Resources

LegalZoom and Rocket Lawyer - Online platforms that offer templates and resources.

Local Estate Planning Attorneys - Consult with professionals to ensure your plan aligns with your unique needs.

Books - Consider reading authoritative books such as “The Complete Book of Wills, Estates & Trusts” by Alexander A. Bove.

For more helpful information please visit
CharitySmith.org

