



Estate Planning Basics

An estate plan ensures that financial and health decisions stay in the hands of a trusted family member (rather than a court) after an illness, injury, or unexpected death.

Reasons for an Estate Plan

- Providing for care for minor children or other dependents
- Protecting a house or business
- Leaving assets to people other than your closest heir (or to an organization)
- Ensuring that your wishes are considered in medical and end-of-life decisions

Key Components of an Estate Plan

- A **Will** details how your assets should be distributed after your death and designates guardians for your dependents
- A **Power of Attorney** designates who will make decisions if you are incapacitated in the areas of:
 - Healthcare (may include an advanced healthcare directive or living will)
 - Property and finances
- A **Trust** may be used to directly transfer assets to beneficiaries and decrease tax obligations



LifeMatters Resources

- **Call LifeMatters** for a referral to an attorney in your area**
- Request a **Simple Will Kit** on mylifematters.com (Legal Resources tile)
- Access **Legal Resources and Forms** (also on the Legal Resources tile)

Quick Tips:

- It is a good idea to have a will in place regardless of your age or the number of assets you have
- An attorney can help you determine whether it would be better for you to have a will or a trust
- Call LifeMatters to access the Legal Consultation Service

**Available services may vary based on the state where the individual resides and specific circumstances.

1-800-634-6433

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Call collect to **262-574-2509** if outside of North America
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*SMS messages will be sent for the duration of the chat. Message and data rates may apply. Text HELP for help and STOP to cancel.
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