Your Checklist for Estate Planning

You've worked hard to accumulate your wealth, and you may be surprised at the size of your net worth once you actually put it on paper. We've enclosed a spreadsheet to help you document your assets.
Determine financial and family needs/goals. Do you want to spend time traveling during your retirement? What will your expenses be in retirement? Does your family have special needs? Will your family have enough funds to meet these needs and accomplish these goals?
Determine who will benefit from your estate. Once you're gone, who do you want to receive your assets? Should they receive them all at once or over a period of time? Will you include charities?
Choose a qualified estate planning attorney. A qualified attorney will help draft your documents. They will assist you to create a cohesive plan that protects your wealth, reduces taxes and ensures a smooth transition of wealth from one generation to the next.
Choose your fiduciaries wisely. It's very important that you trust and have confidence in your fiduciaries. They must be able to exercise good judgment and cannot act for self-gain. Do you appoint an individual or a corporate fiduciary?
Verify titling and beneficiary designations. There are many ways in which to own your property. You should look closely at how you have titled your assets and coordinate this titling with your estate plan so that you achieve your goal for distribution of assets upon your death.
Recognize that estate planning is an ongoing process. Things change, life happens, and your estate documents need to reflect these changes. Review your documents at least every three years. Remember, we're here to help!
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