

Time to update your estate plan?



If your life is evolving, it's important to make sure your estate plan evolves with it. Marriage, divorce, a birth, a new job, the sale or purchase of property, a move to another state are just some of the reasons to revisit a plan to make sure it's keeping up with your life.

It's a common perception that estate plans are exclusively for the wealthy.

But if you own any assets at all — a home, a car, savings or retirement accounts, for example — or you have loved ones who depend on you, you need an estate plan.

An estate plan can do much more than minimize estate taxes.

A well-crafted plan can:

- Keep assets out of probate and provide greater privacy concerning your financial resources.
- Provide safeguards to see that assets are distributed and used as you intend.
- Protect assets from creditors and the effects of divorce.
- Help minimize potential conflicts among beneficiaries when you are no longer able to act as a moderating force.
- Provide professional management of assets now, or in the event you become unable to manage your own affairs.
- Document your wishes regarding medical care.

Maximize opportunities AND Minimize surprises

In addition to your own family and life circumstances, external factors you may not be aware of — such as changes to state or federal gift and estate tax exemptions — could have profound implications for your estate plan. If you haven't updated your estate plan, the large increase in the estate tax exemption amount could cause assets to be distributed in ways you never intended.

Don't Wait! Connect with a Private Advisor

Meeting with your advisor periodically to review major changes that have occurred since your plan was last updated can be extremely helpful. Your advisor has a clear understanding of your current financial picture and can review your funding status.

These next few pages provide some of the areas best...