

The questions that need to be answered for peace of mind during retirement:

WHY DO I NEED ESTATE PLANNING?

Making decisions about how you want to be cared for during your lifetime, and who should receive your assets and belongings after you die, ensures your loved ones won't have to guess about your preferences during an already difficult time.

You should have a **Last Will & Testament; Power of Attorney; Health Care Power of Attorney; HIPAA Authorization; and Living Will**. You might also want to have a **Revocable Living Trust**.

Always tell your loved ones where or how to find important information!

HOW CAN I STAY IN CHARGE OF DECISIONS ABOUT MY MEDICAL CARE?

You can do this by using two types of legal instructions known as advance directives:

A **living will** tells medical professionals and your family which medical treatments you want to receive or refuse – and under what conditions. It only goes into effect if you meet specific medical criteria and can't make your own decisions.

A **health care power of attorney** allows you to appoint someone to make health care decisions for you anytime you can't make them for yourself.

WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT MY FINANCIAL AFFAIRS?

You'll need to make provisions for how you want your finances handled if you can't handle them yourself.

A **durable power of attorney** allows you to decide who should handle your financial matters if you become incapacitated or just don't want to manage things on your own anymore. You'll want to choose someone you trust completely – and who is good at managing money.

You need a financial power of attorney, even if you're married or have limited income and assets. Otherwise, if you become incapacitated, your family may have to go through an expensive and time-consuming court action to appoint a guardian or conservator just to take care of you!

I'VE PREPARED ALL THE DOCUMENTS YOU RECOMMEND. NOW WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Keep a copy of the documents in a safe, accessible place. Review your documents with your designated health care agent and with the person you've named in your financial power of attorney. Discuss any concerns, and make sure they have copies.

Review your advance directives and financial power of attorney with your attorney and family every few years. Your views may shift as your health or circumstances change. **You can change your mind and your directives at any time.**

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Wills ♦ Trusts ♦ Estate Planning ♦ Probate

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Contact us any time if you'd like to learn more!