

For many people, the pandemic has sparked a renewed and urgent interest in estate planning, including creating, updating and/or finalizing estate planning documents.

Does your current plan achieve your goals? Consider what is really important to you, the legacy you want to leave, and the concerns that keep you up at night. Have you wondered what, if anything, could I have done in order to be better prepared?

One of the main reasons people don't use attorneys is the expense. Your legal plan allows you to address these stressful and often ignored issues with high quality "big firm" representation at no cost to you. Your legal plan provides you and your spouse with a FREE Health Care Proxy, Living Will, Durable Power of Attorney and Last Will and Testament.

Without an estate plan in place, an incapacitated individual will be faced with the unpleasant prospect of having state law and probate courts determine who will be responsible for their financial affairs, their children and their healthcare decisions.

A proper estate plan provides peace of mind for you and your loved ones and allows you to decide who receives your assets upon your death.

Whether you're starting a new family or preparing for retirement, it's time to address these issues and draft or update your Will. If you don't choose where your assets will go, or who will be in charge of your children, the state/courts will decide that for you. The state/courts may not pick a person that you would prefer or have chosen to control of your estate or take care of your children.

A Health Care Proxy allows you to choose the person you would like to make health care decisions for you if you are unable to do so. What is the right age to make a Health Care Proxy? The answer is before you get sick. Once you are sick and unable to make timely healthcare decisions, it is too late. If you don't pick the person you want, the state will choose for you and the state might pick a person who can't handle making those tough decisions.

A Power of Attorney is an extremely important estate planning tool. The Durable Power of Attorney appoints a person that can act on your behalf while you're still alive but unable to manage your own affairs. If you don't have a proper Durable Power of Attorney in place and you get sick or become incapacitated, it's very possible that your family will have to go to court to pursue legal guardianship for you. Guardianship is an exceedingly expensive and time-consuming process, and you may not even get the relief that you would want. Loved ones do not automatically have the ability to make financial decisions on your behalf without being appointed your agent in a Durable Power of Attorney.

A Living Will helps loved ones and health care providers know what to do when, medically, there are no good options left. It's a statement of your wishes if you will never regain consciousness and whether or not you prefer to continue living in a permanent vegetative state. These instructions help your loved ones make difficult decisions without having to guess what you would have wanted.

If you would like the peace of mind that comes with getting your estate planning matters in order and your documents drafted and are unsure where to start, please use this link to advise us when you would like to schedule an appointment <https://www.fkmlaw.com/request-will-signing-consult>. We will email or call you back within 24 hours, whichever you prefer, with our availability for an appointment. It is our goal to make your estate planning consultation experience convenient, safe, and as seamless as possible. We would love the opportunity to have a "Zoom or FaceTime" consultation with you to educate you and facilitate the creation of your estate plan. After you reach out to our office and request an appointment we will email you a questionnaire to help you get started. At the same time you can request an appointment to review your answers and ask follow up questions with an attorney. This can all be done virtually at this time.

Once your documents have been drafted in accordance with your wishes, we will work with you to make your estate planning document signing experience as comfortable as possible. Please use this link <https://www.fkmlaw.com/request-will-signing-appointment> to advise us when you would like to schedule a signing appointment and we will email or call you back — whichever you prefer — with availability within 24 hours. At the present time your signing can be done, virtually, in your own home. However this "home signing" (per the governor) is for a limited time only and you must request your appointment ASAP!

The benefits provided by a Legal Service Plan are more valuable than ever before due in large part to COVID-19. Many people are facing issues such as: Bankruptcy (we can help stop bill collectors); Foreclosure (we can provide guidance with keeping or vacating a home); Landlord/Tenant Issues (rent reduction or eviction moratorium); Estate Planning (FREE Last Will and Testament, Durable Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy and Living Will); Family Law Issues (we can assist with child/spousal support modifications); and Real Estate (many families are moving).

For insight and help analyzing your current estate plan and direction regarding the best next steps for you and your family, contact us. We are looking forward to connecting with you; let's get started and stay safe!