

Estate Planning Considerations Before Meeting with Your Attorney:

- Make a complete list of all assets and debts.
- Review previous Wills and directives - these documents should be updated after changes in your estate, and / or estate laws.
- Review who will be your executor(s) / trustee(s). Make sure they are fully aware and comfortable with their prospective responsibilities.
- Review how your assets / debts are registered or titled (joint ownership, individual, trust, etc.)
- Review how your assets would be proportionally distributed at your death.
- Review your named beneficiaries on IRAs, life insurance, pension plans, etc. – this is important because listed beneficiaries override Trusts and a Will.
- Review your transfer on death (TOD) bank and investment accounts – this is important because TOD's override Trusts and a Will.
- Review caretakers of dependent children / elderly parents. Make sure prospective caretakers / guardians are aware and comfortable with the potential responsibility.
- Review your Living Will (aka - Health Care Directives) consider how much or how little medical care you would like in the event of incapacity.
- Review your Durable Power of Attorney (aka - financial power of attorney).
- Review your Medical Power of Attorney
- Provide your attorney a complete list of term and permanent life insurance with expiration dates.
- Consider future (likely) inheritances, and / or liabilities.
- Discuss funeral arrangements with spouse / partner / family.
- Open a family discussion to inform heirs as to what your plans are and discuss any unusual division of property or assets.

There may be more to consider for your personal situation, but this list should be a good start. Attorneys charge by the hour – being prepared for your meeting will make the most of your time.

It's important to note that estate planning is the most significant procrastination area in personal finance. Do your best to keep the process moving, if you're not sure about an item we're here to help.

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