



**ESTATE
PLANNING
CONCEPTS**
*FOR INDIVIDUALS
WITH HD AND THEIR
FAMILIES*



About Brooke



Represents clients in the areas of:

- Real estate
- Corporate law
- Estate planning
- Probate.

Works with:

- Individuals
- Families
- Businesses
- Law degree from The William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV
- Admitted to the State Bar of Nevada and the State Bar of Michigan.

Member of the:

- Nevada State Bar Association
- Clark County Bar Association
- Probate and Trust Section of Nevada State Bar
- the City of North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
- Henderson Chamber of Commerce

ESTATE PLANNING CONCEPTS

Avoiding the Pitfalls of Traditional Estate Planning

THEN

Traditionally, estate planning has focused primarily on what happens after death and has usually passed on financial wealth outright, with no conditions or safeguards.

NOW

Families are realizing that these methods of estate planning are failing them. There is a desire for a holistic approach to help deal with today's real life issues including diagnosis of long term illnesses, such as Huntington's disease.

Importance of an Estate Plan...especially for families

- No one foresees their own death or diagnosis
- Even the most agreeable families can become stressed and relationships are complicated after a family member's diagnosis or death should an Estate Plan NOT be in place.

Our goals today:

1. Better understand what an Estate Plan is.
2. Benefits to an HD patient and his/her family when an Estate Plan is put into place.
3. How smoothly a plan can be put into place for you.

What is an Estate Plan?

A combination of documents, which set forth your desires regarding distribution of your property upon your death and can provide asset protection during your lifetime.

- Revocable Living Trust
- Certificate of Trust
- Pourover Will
- Living Will/Health Care Directive
- Financial Power of Attorney
- Funding Documents - Deed and Assignment, Quit Claim Deeds, and Assignments

Questions you may have asked yourself already:

- How will my assets be distributed when I die?
- Who will handle my financial decisions when I can no longer do so or when I die?
- Who will enforce my health care decisions when I can no longer do so?
- What will happen to my children should I die when they are still minor-aged?
- Who would serve as their guardian?
- How will my estate taxes (death taxes) be paid when I die?

Isn't a will enough?

Without a living trust, litigation is required (i.e. probate costs, attorney fees, 2-year delay, public proceedings, etc.)

I have a plan in place already. How do I know if it needs to be updated/amended?

Typically, when life changing events occur

- Disability
- Remarriage of surviving spouse
- Divorce
- Creditor/financial management
- Beneficiary problems
- Desire to pass on family traditions/values

Who needs an Estate Plan?

If you want to take control of what happens to your property upon your death and avoid court involvement and attorneys' fees to your loved ones in that process OR you want to ensure someone can take care of your financial decisions or medical decisions when you become unable to take care of them yourself, then *you* need an Estate Plan.

Other benefits of having an Estate Plan include:

- Probate avoidance
- Charitable giving
- Tax planning & avoidance
- Guardianship
- Legacy

Estate Planning “planning” Checklist:

Information you’ll need to gather in order to get you started:

- Family contacts
- Bank account(s)
- Retirement and pension account(s)
- Stocks/bonds
- Insurance policy
- List of valuable/sentimental personal possessions
- Prenuptial/postnuptial agreements, divorce decrees, community property agreements and any previous wills
- Income sources and assets
- Trusts you created or benefited from
- List of debts
- A list of specific “bequests”
- Recent tax returns (past 3-4 years)

HDSA resources:

Webinars

- HDSA Lunch & Learn: Preparing for the Unknown
- HDSA Caregiver's Corner: Social Work Perspective on Advance Planning
- HDSA Caregiver's Corner Financial Planning for Huntington's disease (*July*)

Publications

- Advance Directives for Huntington's Disease: A Guide for Families
Available at www.hdsa.org/publications

Other resources:

- [American Bar Association](#)
- [ABA Guide to Wills, Trusts and Estates](#)

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