



The Legacy Report

Volume 8, Issue 4, October, 2016

Updating Your Estate Plan

When should you review it? What should you review?



An estate plan has three objectives. The first goal is to preserve your accumulated wealth. The second goal is to express who will receive your assets after your death. The third goal is to state who will make medical and financial decisions on your behalf if you cannot.

Over time, your feelings about these objectives may change. You may want to name a new executor or health care agent. You may rethink how you want your wealth distributed.

This is why it is so vital to review your estate plan. Over ten or twenty years, your health, wealth, and outlook on life may change profoundly. The key is to recognize the life events that may call for an update.

Have you just married or divorced? If so, your estate plan will absolutely need revision. For that matter, some, or all, of your will may now be legally invalid. (Some state laws strike down existing wills when a person is married or divorced.) If your children or grandchildren marry or divorce, that also calls for an estate plan review.¹

Continued on page 2



Updating Your Estate Plan

Continued from page 1

Has there been a loss or serious illness within your family? If so, your named executor or health care agent may have to be changed. If one family member has now become physically or financially dependent on you, that too may be an occasion for a second look at the plan.

Has your net worth risen or declined substantially since the plan was first implemented? If you have become much wealthier in the past five or ten years (or much less wealthy), that circumstance may have altered your vision of how you want your assets distributed at your death. Maybe you want to give more (or less) to charity or your heirs. A large inheritance can also prompt you to rethink your wealth protection and wealth transfer strategy.

Have you changed your mind about what your wealth should accomplish? Today, you may view your wealth differently than you did when you were younger. New purposes may have emerged for it – new roles that it can play. Following through on those thoughts may lead you to reconsider aspects of your estate plan.

Have your executors or trustees changed their mind about their roles? If they are no longer interested in shouldering those responsibilities, no longer alive, or no longer of sound mind or reputable character, it is revision time.

Have you retired, moved to another state, or bought or sold real estate? All of these events call for an estate plan check-up.

The first step in revising an estate plan is to update essential documents. Not just your will or your trust, but also your financial power of attorney and health care proxy. Review all the names: your executor; your trustee; your health care agent. Changes in your personal (and even your business) relationships may call for alterations to those choices.

The second step is to review your risk management. Does language in your will need revision? Does a trust created years ago need to be modified or replaced? Do new estate planning vehicles need to enter the picture in order to help you adequately transfer wealth, counter estate taxes, or endow charities?

What about your life insurance? Do beneficiary forms of life insurance policies need updating? Is corporate-owned life insurance coverage you once counted on now absent? Will policy payouts be sufficient enough to help your loved ones address financial issues after your death?

The third step is to make sure your assets are in sync with your plan. For example, if you have a revocable trust, have you transferred ownership of all the assets that are supposed to go into it? Have you acquired new assets that need to be “poured in?”

If you are married and it appears certain that your estate will be taxed, you may want to own some assets and have your spouse own others. Yes, the federal estate tax exemption is portable, so any unused estate tax and gift tax exemption is allowed to pass to a surviving spouse. At the state level, though, there are different rules. So if all assets are in your spouse’s name and your home state levies an estate tax, that scenario may mean higher estate taxes for your heirs than if those assets were alternately owned by either you or your spouse.²

Even if nothing major happens in your life, review your plan every five years or so. While your life may be uneventful over five years, tax law, the financial markets, and business climates may change significantly. Those kinds of shifts can impact your estate planning strategy.*

FUN IN THE SUN!

Players at the Legacy Golf Event enjoyed a beautiful afternoon on the course. Here are a few shots!

Congratulations to the winners:

Team: Carl Reno, Kelly Long, John Lutz, and Dick Wadle

Longest Putt: Kelly Long

Closest to the Pin: Dan Schneider

Longest Drive: Greg Mann



**This material was prepared by MarketingPro, Inc., and does not necessarily represent the views of the presenting party, nor their affiliates. This information has been derived from sources believed to be accurate. Please note - investing involves risk, and past performance is no guarantee of future results. The publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional services. If assistance is needed, the reader is advised to engage the services of a competent professional. This information should not be construed as investment, tax or legal advice and may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any Federal tax penalty. This is neither a solicitation nor recommendation to purchase or sell any investment or insurance product or service, and should not be relied upon as such. All indices are unmanaged and are not illustrative of any particular investment.*

Citations.

- 1 - 360financialliteracy.org/Topics/Retirement-Planning/Estate-Planning-Basics/How-often-do-I-need-to-review-my-estate-plan [8/4/16]
- 2 - time.com/money/4187332/estate-planning-checkup-items-review/ [1/20/16]

Legacy Holiday Party

Thursday, December 1, 2016
5:30 – 8:00 PM
Stoney Creek Lodge, Johnston



Join us for a Beary Merry Holiday Party!

Dress is holiday, dressy, or casual.
RSVP to Kathy@LFGplanners.com or (515) 334-5266.

Note: Santa will be taking a well-earned vacation this year. We will have a fun photo booth instead, so remember to bring your smile!





2400 NW 86th Street Suite 25
Des Moines, IA 50322

www.LFGplanners.com

Phone: 515.334.5266
Fax: 515.727.4263

Legacy Financial Group, LLC is a Registered Investment Adviser. Advisory services are only offered to clients or prospective clients where Legacy Financial Group, LLC and its representatives are properly licensed or exempt from licensure. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. Investing involves risk and possible loss of principal capital. No advice may be rendered by Legacy Financial Group, LLC unless a client service agreement is in place.

The Legacy Report 4

Our Advisers are here for you...



Brian J. Hood,
CFP®



Mike Banasiak,
CFP®

Please contact us if you have any questions about your financial planning:

515-334-5266



Scott Arnburg

Mark Your Calendars!

RSVP to Kathy Krogmeier,
at Kathy@LFGplanners.com or (515) 334-5266.

NOTE TIME CHANGE for desserts!

Iowa State Historical Museum – Battle Flag Preservation Lab Tour

Friday, October 21, 2016

Tours will meet in the lobby and begin at 1:00 & 2:30 PM.
Join us upstairs at Baratta's for dessert and a beverage between 1:30 and 2:45 PM.

Feel free to bring a friend.
Tour size is limited to 12, so RSVP today to Kathy@LFGplanners.com.
Must be age 10 or older.

Market Update

Thursday, October 27, 2016
Noon – 1:00 PM
Legacy Classroom
We'll provide the sandwiches!

Need a Financial Speaker?

Our advisers are available to present a wide variety of financial wellness and well-being programs. If you need a financial speaker for your event, please contact us.

Kathy@LFGplanners.com
or call (515) 334-5266
for additional information.