



When Something Happens to you, WHAT's NEXT?

Today, I ask for a minute of your time to talk about something that is very important.

I'm not a lawyer and chances are neither are you. But, for those of us who are middle-aged or better, odds are we have been affected by the death of a loved one.

If you do not have a plan to direct your affairs when you leave this life, I have good news and bad news.

The good news is that if you do not have a plan, the State has one ready to go for you.

The bad news is that this process generally involves probate court. Probate court can be a long and drawn out affair. The recent *death of Prince*, who was a Minnesota resident, highlights the troubles that can happen if we don't have our affairs in order. [Click here for Star Tribune Article](#)

There are two important aspects to a good estate plan:

- Legal documents – find a lawyer you trust and ask them about estate planning. There are two main documents that apply to most of us. They are Wills and Trusts. These documents exist to help the State and your survivors understand your desires when you cannot direct your affairs or speak for yourself because of death or being incapacitated.
- Financial Planning – this is an essential component of any estate plan. Will the funds that are needed at your death be available? Do your accounts and insurance policies have proper ownership and beneficiary designations?

Your legal and financial plans need to be in harmony with each other. They are in fact, two aspects of one plan.

Having been in the financial business for over 18 years, I have had to deal with my share of bad planning or no planning. Dealing with the emotional and spiritual aspects of the death of a loved one *does not have to be made worse* by leaving them a legal and financial mess to deal with as well.

If you don't have a plan, or if you think your plan needs to be updated, call me today. I can help you understand what is involved in the process and if needed, connect you with trusted attorneys and accountants that I have been working with for years and have helped many of my clients.

Call today for your free consultation!