

ESTATE PLANNING & TRUST COUNSEL

SECURING YOUR LEGACY & PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY

A Compassionate Guide to Estate Planning, Wills, and Trusts

Welcome to our guide on protecting your loved ones and preserving your hard-earned assets for the next generation.

DEMYSTIFYING ESTATE PLANNING



Many families delay planning due to common misconceptions about legal protection.

✖ COMMON MYTH

"Estate planning is only for the ultra-wealthy."

✔ THE REALITY

If you own a home, have savings, or care for dependents, you need a tailored plan to prevent state laws from dictating your family's future.

✖ COMMON MYTH

"A standard Will avoids the probate process."

✔ THE REALITY

A Will actually guarantees probate. Without proper trust planning, probate can consume **3% to 8%** of an estate's value and delay distributions by **9 to 18 months**.

WILLS VS. TRUSTS EXPLAINED



STANDARD OPTION

LAST WILL & TESTAMENT

- ⌚ Takes effect **only after passing**.
- 🔑 Must go through the **public probate court** system.
- 👤 Crucial and necessary for **naming legal guardians** for minor children.

RECOMMENDED PROTECTION



COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION

REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST

- ⚡ Takes effect **immediately upon signing**.
- 🛡️ Allows your family to **bypass probate entirely**, keeping your financial affairs completely private.
- 👤 Provides seamless asset management during unexpected **medical incapacity** during your lifetime.

REAL-WORLD CONSEQUENCES

How un-updated plans and co-trustee conflicts trigger high-stakes legal battles.



BUSS FAMILY TRUST

CO-TRUSTEE DISPUTE

The Conflict: Jeanie Buss asked a court to block her siblings (Janie and Joey, acting as co-trustees) from voting to sell the family's remaining franchise shares in the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Argument: She contends that the proposed sale breaches fiduciary duties and directly threatens the minimum ownership requirements required for her to remain controlling owner of the franchise.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Co-trustee provisions and multi-generational business structures require highly specific dispute resolution clauses to protect control.

THE WARNER ESTATE

OUTDATED PLANNING

The Incident: Following Warner's sudden and tragic death from an accidental drowning in Costa Rica in July 2025 at the age of 54, an intense family dispute emerged.

The Failure: His estate plan had not been updated since 1996—decades before he met his wife or had his daughter, leaving his modern family vulnerable and without clear legal protections.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Major life events like marriage and birth demand immediate updates to your estate plan. Outdated documents can disinherit loved ones.

TRANSFER ON DEATH DEEDS (TODD)

HOW IT WORKS

Designates a specific beneficiary to inherit real estate property automatically upon passing, effectively bypassing probate for that specific asset.

ADVANTAGES

A relatively simple and cost-effective legal tool to transfer a primary residence directly to an heir.

LIMITATIONS

Lacks Trust flexibility. Cannot manage assets during incapacity, and naming multiple beneficiaries or minors can lead to severe tax and legal complications.



POWERS OF ATTORNEY & DIRECTIVES



Estate planning protects your dignity and decisions during your lifetime, not just after you pass.



FINANCIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Appoints a trusted individual to manage your bills, taxes, bank accounts, and property if you experience an illness, stroke, or cognitive decline.



HEALTHCARE PROXY

Designates a designated legal agent to make critical medical decisions when you are temporarily or permanently unable to communicate with doctors.



ADVANCE DIRECTIVE (LIVING WILL)

Clearly outlines your specific wishes regarding life support and end-of-life care, removing emotional guesswork from your children's shoulders.

STEP-BY-STEP PLANNING PROCESS



Creating your family's financial safety net is a structured, guided journey with our legal team.

1

Asset Inventory

Catalog real estate, retirement accounts, business interests, and life insurance.

2

Selecting Advocates

Choose reliable Executors, Trustees, Guardians, and Healthcare Agents.

3

Legal Drafting

Customizing your legal documents to match your family's unique dynamics.

4

Trust Funding

Retitling assets and updating beneficiary designations so the plan functions.

5

Periodic Review

Updating your plan every 3–5 years for changing laws or new family members.

SECURING YOUR TOMORROW



CARLOS GARTH

Attorney and Managing Partner

Garth Law Group

**Schedule Your Complimentary
Consultation**

NEXT STEPS & HOW WE HELP

Your legacy deserves to be protected with warmth, precision, and dedicated expertise. We translate your life's work into a secure future for your children and grandchildren.

Our Approach

Personalized, family-focused legal counsel without confusing legalese or hidden hurdles.

IMAGE SOURCES



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