

ESTATE
to the
HEART



HOW TO PLAN WILLS AND ESTATES
FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

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A Word from the Author

Home is where the heart is.

— Proverb



I have a plan to protect my loved ones. In this book, I will show how you can create your own plan.

Why do you need to plan? Traditional approaches to estate planning have made it feel like a chore you keep putting off. I want you to put your heart into it. I have covered the essential steps you need to follow so those closest to your heart will benefit from your estate.

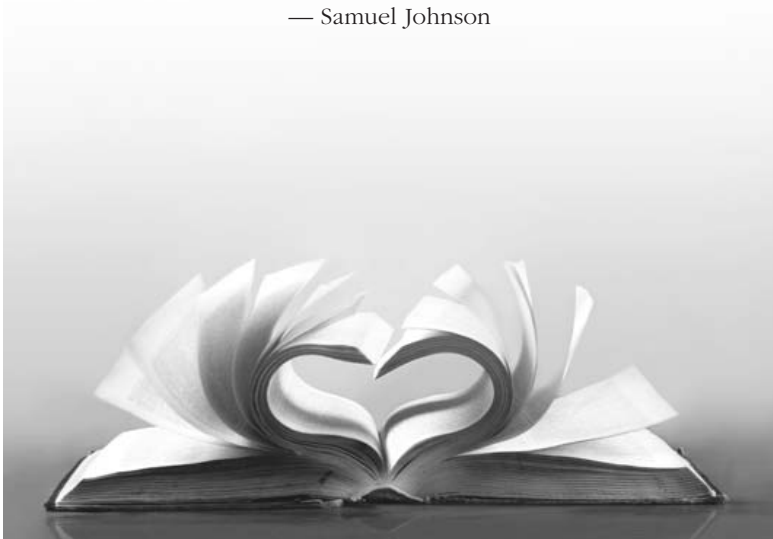
Regardless of your age or circumstances, your loved ones count on you to protect them. You may have children who need guardians assigned and their education costs covered if something happens to you. Or you may have to help parents or children take care of their own affairs.

Whatever your situation, you will find *Estate to the Heart* gives you tips to unlock the mysteries of estate planning. With my approach, you can avoid costly errors and save taxes, time and money. You can start immediately to create or revise your estate plan.

Use this book to protect those closest to your heart and you will be rewarded with peace of mind.

*Knowledge is of two kinds; we know a
subject ourselves, or we know where we
can find information upon it.*

— Samuel Johnson



Introduction

*I shall the effect of this good lesson keep.
As watchman to my heart.*

— William Shakespeare

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E*state Sale.* What do you think of when you see these words? You probably expect to get a bargain. Unfortunately, there's some truth in that. As a lawyer, I see families selling assets to pay bills or taxes or to support themselves. If you plan now, however, you can avoid an estate sale regardless of your financial status or age.

Estate planning is not only for the wealthy. Think of your estate as another word for your loved ones, the family, friends, pets and causes that need your protection. *Estate to the Heart* will help you provide for them after you die.

In this book I show you how to take the first important steps to set your goals and then take action. My simple approach gives you the techniques to take command of your planning. Each section of the book consists of three chapters, complete with Definitions and Estate Tips to help you understand estate planning terms.

After working through this book you can use your research to save time with your estate planning professionals so together you can reach your planning goals.

Throughout your life your needs will change. As you

start a job, have a family, acquire assets or become ill, you'll need to update your plan.

Estate to the Heart benefits

1 You will make better wills.

Avoid traps, tricks and troubles and going to court over your will.

2 You will save income and probate taxes.

Preview your estate to reduce taxes without risk.

3 You will find the right person for every job.

Compare roles for executors, trustees and attorneys.

4 You will understand powers of attorney, and personal care issues.

Appoint persons you trust to make decisions if you cannot.

5 You will learn the tax-free advantages of life insurance.

Provide for your family and achieve your estate goals.

6 You will learn how to use trusts to secure assets.

Protect children or those persons with special needs.

7 You will protect yourself in marriage or divorce.

Get advice for when you marry, separate or divorce.

8 You will benefit from legal checkups.

Use reminders and checklists to review estate plans.

9 You will learn how you settle an estate.

What to expect as executor or beneficiary.

10 You will prepare asset and document inventories.

Provide essentials for your loved ones' peace of mind.

I see families torn apart when relatives get bad advice or none at all. You owe it to yourself and your loved ones to make sure no one will take advantage of them.

Every adult needs to understand the essentials of estate planning to prevent unnecessary tragedies. You can use this information to protect the hearts and homes of those you love. However, after you finish this book, you will need to obtain professional advice. Don't put everything at risk by trying to do it yourself.

Definitions

Estate — refers to whatever you leave behind when you die, including your assets and liabilities. Think of estate as another word for your loved ones, who you want to benefit from your estate.

Will — legal document you sign to deal with your estate after you die. Your executors distribute your estate to beneficiaries.

Powers of Attorney — legal documents that designate agents to handle your finances or health-care decisions while you are alive.

Estate Tip:

*Estate to the Heart
will help you save money
and protect your loved
ones.*

TAKE ACTION

Protect your loved ones



Young or old, rich or poor, you need a plan. Remember, without taking action, your good intentions are worthless. Besides, if YOU don't do it, who will?

An excerpt from Estate to the Heart: How to Plan Wills and Estates for Your Loved Ones by Edward Olkovich
For access to the complete book, visit EstateTherapy.com

The Heart of the Matter

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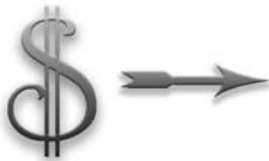
*Riches are gotten with pain, kept
with care and lost with grief.*

— Proverb



Let's get right to the point. Estate planning, as simply explained in this book, helps you avoid problems. Estate planning puts you in charge of what happens to your estate. People always say, "I want my money to go straight to my loved ones."

Estate planning is what you do to ensure that your hard-earned money goes to those closest to your heart. Picture it as above.



Detours bite into your estate with unnecessary legal costs, taxes and delays.

You buy a home, start or invest in a business to provide for yourself and your family. What will happen if you die or become incapacitated by illness? You have to take one more step to plan for these realities. Taking this step will give you tremendous peace of mind. Of course without actions, good intentions are worthless and will only create trouble for your loved ones.

Planning for loved ones

Start planning with one simple idea: If you don't take the time to protect your loved ones, who will? You want to provide for your family, friends and causes so they will benefit from your estate.

Take a moment to list the people who will benefit from your planning. This will motivate you to take action.

My loved ones include: _____

Do you have a list of other individuals to protect?
List them here: _____

Don't forget charities, your favourite causes and pets: _____

Planning needs clear objectives to be effective.

Estate plan checkup

Do you already have an estate plan? Are your loved ones at risk because it is incomplete? Use this checkup to make sure your estate plan is in good health.

Circle your answer.

- 1** I have backup executors and guardians for minor children in my will.

YES NO UNSURE
- 2** I have legally appointed someone to handle decisions for me if I cannot.

YES NO UNSURE
- 3** I have a strategy in place to save probate and income taxes.

YES NO UNSURE
- 4** I have provided for loved ones with special needs.

YES NO UNSURE
- 5** I have a plan to deal with my business if I die.

YES NO UNSURE
- 6** I regularly preview my estate plan to ensure that it achieves my goals.

YES NO UNSURE
- 7** I review my loved ones' needs so my estate protects them.

YES NO UNSURE

8 I have an updated inventory of assets
and valuable documents.

YES NO UNSURE

9 My life and disability insurance coverage
will replace income, cover taxes and gifts.

YES NO UNSURE

10 My loved ones know where my
up-to-date will is stored.

YES NO UNSURE

Estate Tip:
*No one should go
through life without planning
for their loved ones.*

In the next chapter you will
get a chance to be specific
about your goals for the
people you love.