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WHO NEEDS ESTATE PLANNING?

The facts ...

Estate planning isn't about how much money you have, it's about protecting what you have for you, during your life and for those you love, after you're gone. It ensures what you have gets to the people you love, the way you want, when you want.

If you were to die today, are you comfortable everything will be taken care of the way you wanted? Estate planning is legally ensuring things will be handled the way you want by providing sufficient "instructions".

Estate Planning really is for everyone. It doesn't matter if you have \$40,000 or \$400,000. You still have to plan for the future. Whether it's to name a guardian for your minor children or ensure your children don't "blow through" your assets if you unexpectedly die or become disabled (Terri Schiavo case).

Estate planning can only be done by attorneys, and it can be as simple as a Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will and Power of Attorney. It can also include a revocable, probate-avoidance trust, asset protection trusts, multi-generational tax- saving trusts, tax-saving charitable trusts, private family foundations, and many other fact-specific strategies.

Keeping your Estate Plan Current ...

Once completed, your estate plan should be reviewed and kept current with life events such as birth, death, marriage or divorce of anyone included in your plan. In addition, you should review your plan if there is a significant increase or decrease in your finances or if the laws related to your estate plan change.

The Estate Planning Law Center offers a maintenance program that provides you regular access to us to make sure your estate plan stays current with your wishes, family, finances and law.

For more info: www.houstonelderlawyer.com or 713.961.1099