

New Year's Resolution: Getting Your Estate Planning Ducks in a Row

According to a recent lawyers.com survey, 65% of Americans do not have a Will. If you are among that percentage, you are risking that your assets will not be distributed the way you desire when you pass away.

2014 can be your time to be among the proactive 35%. In fact, it's not too late to make basic estate planning, including your will, your new year's resolution, bringing peace of mind to you and your family.

I encourage you to make a vow to include the following in your estate planning documents:

- **Advance Medical Directives:** assigns a person to make healthcare decisions for you if you should become incapacitated.
- **Living Will:** dictates your desired end-of-life medical treatment if you are unable to make those decisions for yourself.
- **Durable Power of Attorney:** assigns a person to make financial decisions for you when needed.
- **Last Will & Testament:** dictates your wishes for the distribution of your assets after you pass away.
- **Tangible Personal Property Directive:** Includes your assets that are moveable, such as jewelry, equipment, and office furniture, and tells how to dispose of them.
- **Limited Power of Attorney:** authorizes one person (the principal) to act on behalf of another. It can be limited to one particular act, for example, in a specific financial transaction.
- **Funeral Instructions (Optional):** A directive that dictates how to arrange your funeral.
- **HIPAA Release:** The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act protects the privacy of your medical records. An advance medical directive can allow the release of those records to those specified in a HIPAA Release.

Feel free to contact my office and we will be happy to help you get started on your estate planning.

Sincerely,
Yahne



For more estate planning, special needs, and elder care information:

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I am also looking forward to serving as a faculty member for the [Medicaid Planning Seminar](#) of the National Business Institute in Fairfax on February 26, 2014.

