

AFM News and Views
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Reasons to Create an Estate Plan Now

Source: 50 Plus News & Views Magazine

By Tim Kirk, Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen

Many people think that estate plans are for someone else, not them. They may rationalize that they are too young or don't have enough money to reap the tax benefits of a plan. But as the following list makes clear, estate planning is for everyone, regardless of age or net worth.

- 1. Loss of capacity.** What if you become disabled and unable to manage your own affairs? Without a plan, a court will select the person to manage your affairs. With a plan, you pick that person (through a power of attorney).
- 2. Minor children.** Who will raise your children if you die? Without a plan, a court will make that decision. With a plan, you are able to nominate the guardian of your choice.
- 3. Dying without a will.** Who will inherit your assets? Without a plan, your assets pass to your heirs according to your state's laws of intestacy (dying without a will). Your family members (and perhaps not the ones you would choose) will receive your assets without benefit of your direction or of trust protection. With a plan, you decide who gets your assets, and when and how they receive them.

4. **Blended Families.** What if your family is the result of multiple marriages? Without a plan, children from different marriages may not be treated as you would wish. With a plan, you determine what goes to your current spouse and to the children from a prior marriage or marriages.
5. **Children with special needs.** Without a plan, a child with special needs risks being disqualified from receiving Medicaid or Social Security benefits, and may have to use his or her inheritance to pay for care. With a plan, you can set up a Supplemental Needs Trust that will allow the child to remain eligible for government benefits while using the trust assets to pay for non-covered expenses.
6. **Keeping assets in the family.** Would you prefer that your assets stay in your own family? Without a plan, your child's spouse may end up with your money if your child passes away prematurely. If your child divorces his or her current spouse, half of your assets could go to the spouse. With a plan, you can set up a trust that ensures that your assets will stay in your family and, for example, pass to your grandchildren.
7. **Retirement accounts.** Do you have an IRA or similar retirement account? Without a plan, your designated beneficiary for the retirement account funds may not reflect your current wishes and may result in burdensome tax consequences for your heirs. With a plan, you can choose the optimal beneficiary.
8. **Business ownership.** Do you own a business? Without a plan, you don't name a successor, thus risking that your family could lose control of the business. With a plan, you choose who will own and control the business after you are gone.
9. **Avoiding probate.** Without a plan, your estate may be subject to delays and fees, and your assets will be a matter of public record. With a plan, you can structure things so that probate can be avoided entirely.

Shop Small Businesses

source: 50 Plus News & Views Magazine

How often do you shop the small businesses in your community? This Year, 2020, would certainly be the year to focus on shopping locally. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many small businesses have faced new challenges. There are lots of great reasons to shop in your community. Let me share a few of them with you.

Small businesses are owned by your friends and neighbors. The same friends and neighbors who buy magazines, Girl Scout cookies and support your children's school projects. These are the same friends and neighbors who have invested their time and talents to create a business that is unique and unlike any other. They bring interest and flare to the place where you live.

Another advantage to shopping small businesses is—small businesses hire locally. They help local economies by keeping money close to home. Small businesses provide opportunities for locals and create worthwhile jobs.

Small business shopping helps our community. Statistics show that \$48.00 of every \$100.00 spent with a small business is recirculated back into your local community. It is a great way for us to make a difference while doing your holiday shopping.

Small businesses are much more likely to invest in the community. Research shows that small businesses are 250 times more likely to make those donations that are needed by organizations in our area. Because they live and work in our community they are much more likely to get involved in projects that help you and your family.

Coming up on November 28, 2020 we have an event called Small Business Saturday. This is a nationwide campaign that celebrates small businesses and shows support for all these businesses who invest so much into our communities. Small Business Saturday was a day created by American Express on November 27, 2010 in an effort to support local shops that make communities strong. It has created awareness and has helped our small businesses to gain exposure and boost sales. Each year it has continued to grow in popularity with more and more shoppers pledging their support. In 2019 it was estimated that there were 110 million shoppers who spent 19.6 billion dollars with small businesses. This year the numbers are expected to increase.

Small Business Saturday is held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, which is one of the busiest shopping days of the year. In recent years, many small business owners have gotten quite creative by trying different ways to reach out to shoppers.

Small Business Saturday is a day while doing holiday shopping for your family you can support jobs and growth in the community you live in. Make a pledge today to shop small businesses. They are the heart of every community.

WEEKLY UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE

LPL Financial's *Weekly Market Commentary* and *Weekly Economic Commentary* can be found on LPL Financial's website (http://www.lplfinancial.com/learning_center/research/).

OTHER UPDATES AVAILABLE FROM LPL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

- Daily market update: <http://LPLresearch.com>
- YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/lplresearch> (which can also be found on our website)

CLIENT CONNECT

Are you anticipating an email change? Let us know. We want to make sure you receive all of our email communications. Send your new e-mail to melissa.arbisi@lpl.com

If you have any input or comments about our newsletter, let us know. We love to hear from you!!

Your referrals mean a great deal to our business. If you know of a friend or family member who might benefit from our service, please let us know. We will work hard to ensure that your referrals feel it was a wise investment of their time – and their future- to have met with us.

Don't keep us a secret!! Share this with your family and friends.

Till next month,

The Alltrust Team

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