

# Estate Planning Tips For Newly Married Couples

*Congratulations on your nuptials! It may be impossible to fathom a loss like that of a spouse, especially in this time of your life. However, planning for the worst now sets you up for a less awful experience in the worst of circumstances. In the event that something catastrophic happens to you, your spouse may have a difficult time legally making decisions on your behalf. It's not always straightforward for a spouse to have control in the event that the other spouse is incapacitated. Thus, securing assets upon one's death are not always the main reason for creating an estate plan. Here are some helpful tips to move forward with this important planning process.*

- Decide on whom you'd like to make decisions on your behalf and how you would like your wishes carried out. We can help you understand your options.
- If one spouse's parents have financially helped the newly married couple, this may need to be addressed in the estate plan. For example, if the wife's parents loan the couple money for a down payment on a house, that is an informal arrangement. Perhaps the wife's Will addresses this and requires repayment.
- Another issue to address is tax planning. Once someone is married, they have the ability to implement different tax strategies that are not available to unmarried couples. Understanding the implications of these are necessary for making wise financial decisions. Again, we can help!
- If there is separate property, a proper estate plan will prevent unintended consequences for the distribution of those separate property assets.
- If the newly married couple is bringing children into the marriage from a prior relationship, this needs to be addressed in estate planning documents to ensure that the child(ren) are provided for and have the accurate guardian selected upon the death of the parent.

***We can help you create or modify your estate planning documents so that they are accurate and work for you in case you ever need to use them. Schedule a consultation with our legal team to get started.***

**Contact our office for a [complimentary consultation](#) now.**

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