

Death and Estate Planning  
or  
Keep Helping  
After You're Gone

# Necessary Decisions

- Someone will make decisions regarding:
  - End of life care
    - Life Support or not
    - Pain medications or not
    - Other extraordinary measures or not
  - Funeral or Memorial service
  - Disposition of remains: burial, cremation, where?
  - Distribution of financial assets, real estate and other property

# Provide your Choice or ???

- Legally Sufficient Documents
  - End of Life care: going gently or otherwise
  - Advance Medical Directive
  - Health Care Proxy
  - Will or who gets what
- Informal documents, Letters of Instruction
  - Type of service, if any
  - What to do with remains
  - As detailed and specific as you want

# No Plan = Uncertainty & Stress

- Plan reduces stress on family and friends
- Can help avoid conflicts
- Ensures your wishes take precedence
- Smooths out financial aspects and potential tax issues

# Minimum Considerations

- Are all key documents identified and easy to locate?
  - Birth Certificate, Marriage License, DD214, etc
  - Financial data: accounts, credit cards, mortgage, vehicle titles
- Are all legal documents properly formatted, signed and witnessed?
- Is there a method for disposition of each account or asset?
- Is the plan current?
- Are there secure copies of the plan?
- Who knows where the plan and copies are?
  - Spouse, SO, Attorney, Children or other SR
- Plan Complexity
  - As simple as your situation allows

# Plan Simplicity

- Consider actions needed over time
- Three Phases
  - Immediate or time sensitive actions (0-30 days)
    - End of Life care, Funerary arrangements, notifying family and friends, paying bills, filing will, notifying banks, brokers, trusts, and insurance firms
  - Transition actions (up to 6 months)
    - Trust actions, property disposition, changes in account ownership (adding a new responsible person)
  - Establishing a new routine (6 months to someday)

# Final Thoughts

- A good plan will
  - minimize potential for family disagreements about your unstated intentions
  - minimize the financial penalties your heirs will have and time before they receive their bequests
  - make it as easy as possible for your surviving spouse, SO, or SR to carry out your wishes and begin to adjust
  - be as simple as possible