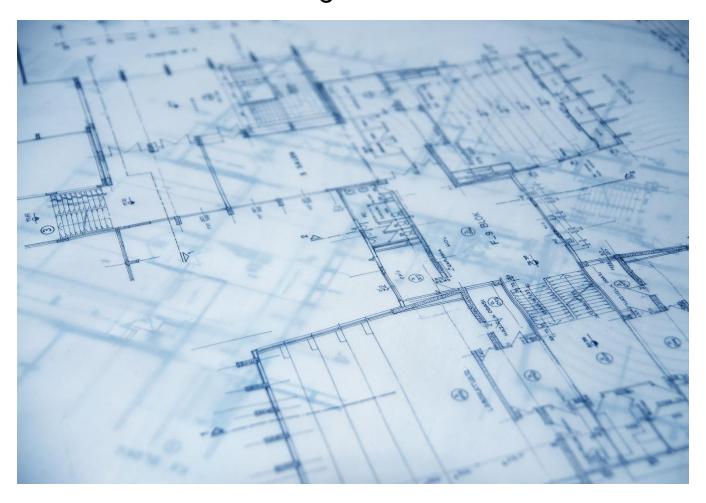
Family Blueprint

A Guide to Documenting Your Essential Information



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Be a Hero

Give Your Loved Ones Peace of Mind

If something were to happen to you, would your family and loved ones be able to step in and keep your home, family, or business running smoothly? Would they be able to locate and access your accounts and assets? Could they manage your bills that need to be paid?

At Provident Law / Estate Planning LLC, our mission is to help individuals and families plan for the future, ensuring they are ready for any circumstance that may arise. We understand that having these important conversations with your family and loved ones can be challenging. This guidebook will provide the support you need to make thoughtful decisions and organize essential information.

Inside, you will find helpful topics, such as: (1) your personal information, (2) your emergency contacts, (3) personal information for your minor children/dependents, (4) your medical information, (5) a list of your important documents (and where to find them), and (6) your assets and liabilities. By documenting this information and planning ahead, you can alleviate some of the burdens on your loved ones, ensuring they can carry out your wishes with clarity and confidence. Ultimately, our goal is to help you prepare for the future, protect your assets, and minimize family conflicts.

We created this guidebook to assist you in creating a plan that preserves your legacy and safeguards your family's future. With this plan in place, you will have peace of mind, knowing that both you and your loved ones are well-protected for what lies ahead.

Keep this Guidebook Safe

Store this guidebook in a secure, locked location, like a fire-resistant safe or a bank safety deposit box. Only share it with individuals you trust to handle your most personal information.

Estate Planning Made Easy

If you already have an estate plan that meets your needs, this guidebook will serve as a tool to help you gather and provide necessary information to your family and loved ones. If you do not have an estate plan, an attorney can create one for you. Our estate planning process involves three simple steps.

Step 1 – Meet

We will meet to talk through your concerns about estate planning, your family, your assets, and how you want things handled if you become incapacitated or after you are gone. I will walk you through the estate planning process, explaining what could happen if you do not have a plan in place, versus what might happen if you have an estate plan created by an attorney. You will have plenty of opportunities to ask questions and figure out what works best for you, your family, or your business.

Step 2 - Plan

If you choose to hire me, we will talk about your goals and concerns so I can create an estate plan that fits your needs, whether for your family or business. I will go over the differences between wills and trusts, and I will explain how powers of attorney, advance directives for healthcare, and HIPAA forms work. You will have the opportunity to pick the people you want to manage your affairs and make medical and financial decisions for you. Depending on how complex your situation is, we can either go over this in the initial meeting or set up another meeting.

Step 3 - Sign

I will use the information you provide to create an estate plan that fits your needs. Once it is ready (usually 4-6 weeks after I get everything from you), I will schedule a signing meeting. I will notarize the documents as you sign them, and I will have witnesses available for the signings. If I create a trust for you, I will give you all the details you will need to make sure it is properly funded.

When your estate plan is finished, you will have confidence knowing it will achieve your goals and cover your concerns.

 If you have questions regarding general estate planning terms (will, trust, power of attorney, advance directive for healthcare, and HIPAA authorization), refer to the definitions section in the back of this guidebook for additional information.

Personal Information

You and Your Spouse/Partner

Your Full Name Spouse/Partner Full Nan	Date of ne Birth	Phone Numbe	
Emergency Cont	acts		
In an emergency, please	contact:		
Name	Phone I	Number i	Relationship
Security Codes,	Authorizat	ion Codes	s, Pins, and Passwords
List your security codes, tablets, work and home a			nd passwords for your phones, computers, etc.
Device Lo	ocation		Code, Pin, or Password
			_

Usernames and Passwords

List your usernames and passwords for all important websites that you visit, including: banks, credit unions, financial institutions, email accounts, telephone providers, internet providers, security providers, utilities, medical facilities, schools, streaming services, etc.

Company	Username	Password
	_	
	_	

Identification Numbers

List your Social Sec	curity, driver's license, an	d passport numbers.	
Document	Number		nal Document's Location
Attorneys an		troont advisors toy advis	ara businasa advisara an
insurance advisors		tment advisors, tax advis	ors, business advisors, and
Type of Advisor	Company Name		Phone Number
			

Medical Professionals

		e, including: doctors, so pational therapists, spe	specialists, counselors, dentists, eech therapists, etc.
Doctor's Name	Specialty	Phone Number	Address
			-
Necessary Me	edical Inform	ation	
List your medical cor	nditions/allergies th	at a caretaker needs to	o be aware of.
Medical Condition/A	llergy	Treatment Plan	
Include a list of the m	nedications, vitamir	ns, and supplements yo	ou take.
Pharmacy			
List the name and co	ntact information f	or the pharmacy you u	se.
Name	Phone N	umber Addres	ss

If you do not have Minor Children and/or Dependents, please skip to page 12.

Minor Children and/or Dependents

Important Information

Minor Child/ Dependent	Date of Birth	Custodial Parent/ Guardian	Address
	order governing t		nship of a minor child/dependent
Contact Inforn	nation		
For each minor child/	dependent, list the	eir contact informati	on.
Minor Child/ Dependent	Phone i	Number Ema	ail Address
Benefits/Servi	ces		
			penefits and/or services (SNAP, WIC programs, etc.), list the following
Minor Child/ Dependent	Benefit/Service	Provid	ler Phone Number

For each benefit/service	e received, include a cop	y of the relevant pap	perwork.
Medical Profess	sionals		
			ney see, including: doctors
Minor Child/ Dependent	Doctor's Name	Specialty	Phone Number
	_		
	_		
	-		
	_		
Necessary Medi	ical Information		
For each minor child/de be aware of.	pendent, list their medic	al conditions/allergi	es that a caretaker needs to
Minor Child/Dependent	Medical Condition	n/Allergy Treatr	ment Plan
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

For each of your minor children/dependents, include a list of the medications, vitamins, and supplements they take.

Pharmacy

For each minor child/dependent, list the name and contact information for the pharmacy you use.

Minor Child/ Dependent	Pharmacy 	Phone Number	Address	
Identification				
For each minor chi numbers.	ld/dependent, list	their: Social Sec	curity, driver's license, and	passport
Minor Child/ Dependent	Document	Number	Original Document's L	ocation.

Medical Insurance

List the policies you have for your minor children/dependents, including: medical, dental, orthodontic, vision, and prescription drug.

Minor Child/ Dependent	Type of Policy	Carrier	Policy Number	Premium	Payment Information	Phone Number

Include a copy of your insurance cards and the most recent statement for each policy.

Guardians

If you have named a guardian for your minor children/dependents in your will, list their name and contact information.

Minor Child/ Dependent	Guardian	Phone Number	Email Address

It is crucial to nominate a guardian and a successor guardian for your minor children/dependents in your will. If you designate a guardian and both parents are unable to care for the minor children/dependents, the court will review your nomination and approve it if it is deemed appropriate.

However, if no guardian is named and both parents are unable to care for the minor children/dependents, the court will appoint a guardian. This appointed guardian will be someone who is considered to act in the best interests of the minor children/dependents, but it does not have to be a family member. Additionally, a minor above a certain age (such as 14) may nominate a guardian for themselves, but the court will ultimately appoint the guardian it considers most appropriate. The process of appointing a guardian can be lengthy, may lead to disagreements among family members, and could result in the appointment of a guardian you would not have selected.

Trusted Caretakers/Babysitters

List the name and contact information for individuals who are trusted caretakers/babysitters for your minor children/dependents.

Name		hone Numbe	r	Email Address		
Schools						
List the names a	nd contact infor	rmation for th	e schools	your mine	or childrer	n/dependents attend.
Minor Child/ Dependent	School		Phone Nu	ımber	Address	S
Extracurrical List the sports, involved in.			tivities tha	at your m	inor child	dren/dependents are
Minor Child/ Dependent	Activity	Loca	ition	Con Pers	tact son	Phone Number

Pets

Pet Information

Pet Name	Type of Pet	Age	Notes		
Veterinaria	an				
List the name a	and contact info	rmation for the	e veterinarian yo	ou use for your pe	ets.
Veterinarian		Phone Numb	oer Ado	dress	
Pet Insura	nce				
List the policies	s you have for yo	our pets.			
Pet Name	Carrier	Policy Number	Premium	Payment Information	Phone Number
		e cards and th	ne most recent s	statement for eac	ch policy.
Trusted Ca	aretaker				
Who would you	like to take car	e of your pets	in the event of y	our incapacity or	death?
Name		Phone Numbe	er Em	ail Address	
	 -				

This designation is not legally binding, it is simply a way to express your wishes. If you would like to create a formal care plan for your pets, you can create a pet trust.

Assets

Financial Accounts

List your bank accounts, credit union accounts, stocks, securities, cryptocurrency, Section 529 or other educational plans, and custodial accounts.

Financial Institution	Account Number	Owner(s)	Beneficiary(ies)

Include a copy of a recent statement for each account that shows the actual investments or assets you own. You should consider naming a beneficiary for each account that does not have a beneficiary designation and review your existing beneficiary designations to ensure they accurately reflect your wishes for the distribution of your assets after your death. All accounts that have a valid beneficiary designation will be distributed per the terms of the beneficiary designation and will not be governed by the terms of your will.

Since you generally cannot name a beneficiary for cryptocurrency accounts, it is crucial that your personal representative, trustee, and/or beneficiary has all the necessary information to access your account in the event of your incapacity or death.

Retirement Assets

List your IRAs, 401(k)s or other qualified retirement plans, and stock options.

Financial Institution	Account Number	Owner(s)	Beneficiary(ies)

For each of the accounts listed, you should include a recent statement that shows the actual investments or assets you own.

You should consider naming a beneficiary for each account that does not have a beneficiary designation and review your existing beneficiary designations to ensure they accurately reflect your wishes for the distribution of your assets after your death. All accounts that have a valid beneficiary designation will be distributed per the terms of the beneficiary designation and will not be governed by the terms of your will.

Retirement Income Streams

List your Social Security, deferred compensation plans, pension plans, military retirement benefits, military survivor benefits, and annuities.

Type of Income	Amount	Received by Check/ Automatic Deposit	If Automatic Deposit, Which Financial Institution?

For each of the income streams listed, you should include a recent statement that shows the amount you are receiving.

If any of your retirement income streams have survivor benefits for your spouse, include documents that state the details of those survivor benefits.

Ownership Interests in Partnerships/Businesses and Foreign Assets

List vour	ownership	interests in	partnerships/	/businesses a	and foreign a	assets.
,						

Type of Asset	Partnership/ Business	Location	Account Information	Phone Number

If you can name a beneficiary for your foreign assets, you should do so. If you cannot name a beneficiary, it is crucial that your personal representative and/or trustee has all necessary information to obtain control/ownership of the asset in the event of your incapacity or death.

You should provide them with the following information: the company, your percentage of ownership, beneficiary information for each foreign asset, the name and contact information of the person they should contact, and the approximate value of your ownership interest.

Real Estate

List your ownership interests in real estate.

Type of Property	Owner(s)	Address	Location of Documents

If any of the properties are rental properties, include all relevant paperwork for each rental property.

Personal Property

List your valuables, heirlooms, and items of sentimental value, such as jewelry, artwork, antiques, antique/vintage cars, and more. If you have the documentation, include appraisals, photos, and insurance information.

Description	Location	Photo (Yes/No)	Appraisal (Yes/No)	Insurance (Yes/No)

Include a copy of the photos, appraisals, and insurance policies you have for the items.

If you want to give specific items to particular people, you can outline those gifts in a will or trust.

Firearms

List you	r firearms,	along with ar	าу ล	accessori	ies and modi	fic	ati	ons sucl	ı as	suppresso	rs, foregi	rips,
bipods,	extended	magazines,	or	custom	alterations.	lf	а	firearm	is	registered,	provide	the
registra	tion inform	nation.										

A gun trust is an option for individuals who own or intend to acquire National Firearms Act (NFA) regulated firearms, such as suppressors, short-barreled rifles, and machine guns, as it streamlines the legal ownership, possession, and transfer process for these firearms.

Personal Property You Have Loaned to Others

List items you have loaned to another person or company, and state when they are supposed to return each item.

Item	Person/Company Holding Item	Phone Number	Date Item will be Returned

If you have documentation for the loans, include a copy of that paperwork.

Money Owed to You

List debts owed to debts.	you, the pay	rment schedule, and	d if you are planning/will	ling to forgive the
Who Owes You? Name/Company	Amount Loaned	Balance Due (as of)	Payment Schedule (Monthly/Quarterly)	•
If you have docume	entation for th	ne debts, include a c	opy of that paperwork.	
Safety Depos	sit Box			
Financial Institution		Phone Number	Address	
I have designated t	_		norized signers" or "co-re	nters" on the box,
Name		Phone Number	Email Address	

If you have documentation for the safety deposit box, include a copy of that paperwork.

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\mathbf{O}	rage	u	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	ΙL
		_		
	_			

Company		Phone Number	Phone Number		Address		
I have given writter storage unit/facility		to the storage faci	lity for	the following indiv	viduals to access the		
Name		Phone Number		Email Address			
If you have docume	ntation for	the storage unit, ir	nclude	a copy of that pape	erwork.		
Personal Saf	е						
Location			ombin	ation			
Digital Asset	S						
accounts, apps, or s Facebook, many pro after the owner's de	software th ofiles of de eath. As pa ner you wa	at store your perso ceased individuals art of your legacy p nt your social medi	onal or are ke _l olannin a acco	sensitive information active and turned by, it is important to bunts to remain onli	cial media; and other on. For platforms like I into Memorial pages o talk with family and ne, and if so, who will		
Account Us	er ID	Password/ Pin		curity Questions/ nswers	Person to Manage After Death		

			
			-
			_
			_
Rewards Programs			
List the rewards programs in	which you are enrolled	1.	
List the rewards programs in Company Name/Program	which you are enrolled Account Number	d. Password	Phone Number
	Account		

Financial Responsibilities

Liabilities

List your mortgages, home equity loans, lines of credit, car loans, student loans, personal loans, medical debt, taxes owed, business debt, alimony or child support, legal liabilities, personal guarantees, liens, and borrowed items.

Type of Debt	Creditor	Amount Owed (as of)	Payment Due Date
For each lightlift, inc			
Credit/Debit	clude a copy of a rece Cards	ent statement.	
	it cards and state wh the name of the othe		ed individually or jointly. If it is
Creditor	Account	Holder(s)	Account Number

For each credit card, include a copy of a recent statement. Some credit cards have a policy that pays off the balance of the card upon your death. It is important to check this before canceling a card.

Automatic Payments

List your accounts from which monthly automatic payments are deducted.

Account Name	Account Number		pany that Debits account	Approximate Amount
				<u> </u>
Leases				
List property/ass	sets you currently	lease from others.		
Property/ Asset	Lessor	Payment/ Due Date	Expiration Date	Contact/ Phone Number

For each lease, include a copy of the relevant paperwork.

Subscriptions

List	your	memberships,	professional	services,	online	or	print	newspapers,	magazines
perio	dicals	s, ID protection s	ervices, softw	are and ba	ck-up se	ervio	ces, m	ovie/tv stream	ing services
etc.									

Subscription	Expiration Date	Account Number	ID/Password	Phone Number
Loverite				
location of all rele	evant documents,	photos, physical		e sure to include the
I am a F	riaintiff _	I am a D	erendant	
Attorney's Contac	ct Information:			
Name	Pho	ne Number	Email Address	

Additional Financial Responsibilities

List your ongoing financial responsibilities.

Financial Responsibility	Amount Owed	Person/ Company Owed	Payment Information	Phone Number

For each financial responsibility, include a copy of the relevant paperwork.

Insurance and Other Benefits

Life Insurance

List your policies, including: term, whole, universal, variable, indexed universal, final expense, and accidental death and dismemberment.

Carrier	Policy Number	Benefit	Payment Information	Phone Number	Beneficiary(ies)	
	of your most red		•		each policy.	
	es, including: me long-term disabi			on drug, Medicar	e, Medigap, short-	
Type of Policy	Carrier	Policy Number	Premium	Payment Information	Phone Number	
Include a conv	of your incurance	o cards and the	most recent s	tatament for acc		
	of your insuranc	e carus and the	e most recent s	taternent for eac	л ропсу.	
Other Insurance						
	es, including: ho ss liability), etc.	me, auto, boat,	airplane, valua	ıbles (art, jewelr	y, etc.), as well as	
Type of Policy	Carrier	Policy Number	Premium	Payment Information	Phone Number	

Include a copy of your n	nost recent stateme	ent for each policy.		
Employer Benef	its			
List your benefits from a	a current or previous	s employer.		
Type of Benefit	Employ	er	Pho	ne Number
Include a copy of all rele	evant paperwork for	each benefit.		
Veteran (VA) an	d Governmer	t Benefits		
List the following inform	nation pertaining to	your military servi	ce.	
Military Status:	Active Duty	Veteran		
Branch of Service	,		Service Dates	Location of Service Records
If you have a National S information.	ervice Officer to ass	ist you with VA be	nefits, list the	eir name and contact
List each VA and/or gov	vernment benefit yo	u receive.		
Type of Benefit	Amount	Agency		Phone Number

Include a copy of all relevant paperwork for each benefit you receive.

Important Documents

Estate Planning Documents

List your estate planning documents, including: Last Will and Testament; Revocable Trust; Irrevocable Trust; Living Will; Advance Directive for Healthcare; General, Durable, and/or Limited Power of Attorney; Life Insurance Trust; Charitable Trust; Minor's Trust; HIPAA Authorization; and other medical directives.

Document	Date Signed	Location of Original	Contact	Phone Number
	_ :			
	_			
•		trust, your assets will be o fits-all default plan, which		•
Additionally, if	you become incap	acitated and do not have	a valid durable p	ower of attorney and

Additionally, if you become incapacitated and do not have a valid durable power of attorney and advance directive for healthcare, your loved ones will likely need to go to court to have a guardian appointed for you. This process can be both costly and time-consuming.

Deeds and Titles

List your deeds to real property and titles to automobiles, boats, and airplanes.

Document	Location of Deeds and Titles	Contact	Phone Number

Business Information

If you own your own business, you should state the location of each of the following documents that pertain to your business: business registration information; operating agreement or partnership agreement; any business licenses, permits, or certificates; tax identification number; bank accounts and financial statements; accounting records, ledgers, and financial reports; outstanding debts and liabilities; tax returns, tax filings, and any due taxes; access to online payment systems or financial tools; contact details for clients, customers, and vendors; contracts, agreements, and obligations with clients, suppliers, or service providers; leases for office space; pending orders or projects; employee payroll records; benefits, tax withholdings, and insurance details; independent contractor agreements; emergency contacts and employment contacts; inventory and/or physical assets; insurance policies related to the business; website domain and hosting information; social media and marketing account credentials; any e-commerce platforms or online selling accounts; your business succession plan; buy-sell or buy-out and overhead expense agreements; and any life insurance and/or key man policies that would be used to satisfy debts of the business.

man ponoico triat would be t	doca to dationy debte of the	e buomeoo.
Business Name	Document	Location of Document
		
Emergency Contac		
If you own your own busines the event of your incapacity		act information of the person to contact in
Name	Phone Number	Email Address

Family Documents

List your family documents: Marriage License, Domestic Partner Agreement, Cohabitation Agreement, Pre- or Post-Nuptial Agreement, Divorce or Separation Agreement, Child Support Agreement, Birth Certificate, Adoption Papers, Guardianship Papers, Citizenship Papers, and Burial or Crematory Arrangements.

Document	Date Signed	Location of Original	Contact	Phone Number
Employer Co				
If you are employe	ed, list your em	ployer's contact informa	ation.	
Name	P	Phone Number	Email Address	
Tax Returns				
		s and personal tax returr ne accountant(s) who pi		
Accountant	Address	Phon Numb		ocation of Returns

If You Are Unable to Live Independently and/or Make Decisions for Yourself

Power of Attorney/Advance Directive for Healthcare

If you have a valid power of attorney and advance directive for healthcare, list the contact information for the individuals you have appointed to make decisions for you and manage your care.

Appointment (Primary and Successor(s))	Name	Phone Number	Email Address		
Monthly Inco	me				
List your monthly in	scome and state where	e it comes from.			
Income Source	Amount		Automatic Deposit? If so, to what Account?		

Monthly Expenses

List your monthly expenses and state how each bill is paid.

Expense	Amount Automatic Withdrawals? Date? Which Account?		Online Account? Log-In Information?		
			_		

Include a copy of a recent statement for each monthly expense.

Remembrance and Services Information and Desires

Notices

Please notify the following family members of my d	eath:
Name	Phone Number
	
Please notify the following friends of my death:	
Name	Phone Number

Please notify the following organizations of my death:
Miscellaneous Instructions:
Personal Information
My Date of Birth:
My Place of Birth:
My Partner/Spouse:
My Parents:
My Siblings:
My Children:
My Grandchildren:

Others:
Schools Attended, Dates of Graduation, Degrees, Honors, Etc.:
Religious Affiliations and Offices Held:
Civic Organizations and Offices Held:
Military Service and Honors:
Professional and Social Organizations and Offices Held:
Awards, Recognitions, Accomplishments, etc.:

Other Information:		
Funeral Home or C Contact the following fune have made for the handling	ral home or crematory fo	r guidance on the advance preparations I
Name	Phone Number	Address
I request that the following preparations:	funeral home or cremat	ory be used as I have <u>not</u> made advance
Name	Phone Number	Address
My Desires		
I would like the following tre	eatment:	
to be entombed	to be buried	to be cremated
my hody donated	for scientific medical pur	noses per my anatomical gift instructions

I have already purchase	d a:	
burial plot	mausol	eum crypt
cremation nicl	ne for an urn	
My remains will be kept	at the following cemete	ry or mausoleum:
Name	Phone Number	Address
I desire that my remains		
·	·	
near the follow	/ing individuals:	
Other Instructions:		
Marker Selection	n	
I have made a	dvance preparations for	my marker or headstone.
I desire my ma	arker or headstone to ha	ve the following designs, colors, emblems, etc.:
I desire the fol	lowing engraving:	

Casket or Urn Selection

I desire that my casket b	oe made:	
of metal	of w	ood
with other con	siderations (cloth-cover	ed, decorated, etc.)
My Remembran	ce Service	
I desire for my funeral/n	nemorial service to be he	eld at the following location or facility:
Name	Phone Number	Address
	·	
I desire the following typ		
a funeral servi closed casket	ce with remains present	and an open casket or a
a memorial se	rvice without remains pr	esent
a burial site se	ervice	
Any remembrance shou	ld:	
be open to the	public	
be open only t	o my family and close fr	iends
be open only t	0	

include i	military honors		
include a	a wake		
instead	of a remembrance, I desire:		
direct cr	emation dire	ect burial	
I would like to wea	ar the following clothing:		
I would like to be b	ouried with the following jewel	ry and other personal items:	
I would like the fo then retained for f		in, on, or around my casket at r	ny viewing, and
	ninister, friend, or family memb give a eulogy, homily, or words Phone Number	er officiate, and work with my fai of comfort: Address	mily and friends
I desire to have the	e following musical selections	played at my funeral or memori	ial service:

I desire to have the following scriptures, poems, readings, etc., read:
I desire to have:
flowers at my funeral or memorial service
no flowers at my funeral or memorial service
memorial contributions made to the following organizations instead of flowers:
Costs and Expenses
The handling of my remains and my remembrance should be:
modest cost reasonable cost lavish cost
Other Instructions:

Miscellaneous Instructions

List any additional instructions you would like to convey to your family members and loved ones regarding your remembrance and services.				

Additional Information and Instructions

List any additional information and/or instructions you would want your family members, loved ones, personal representative, trustee, and/or beneficiaries to know.					
·					

Congratulations!

You have successfully completed the important task of documenting your personal information and desires for your family and loved ones. By filling out this guidebook, you have made sure they will have the necessary details to care for you and honor your wishes. Since life changes frequently, we recommend reviewing this book every year and updating any outdated information.

If you do not have a valid will, trust, power of attorney, advance directive for healthcare, or HIPAA authorization, we strongly recommend working with an attorney to create these important documents as soon as possible. These documents will ensure that your family and loved ones can make decisions and care for you if you become incapacitated. Additionally, these documents will allow you to direct how your assets are distributed after your death to the individuals you wish to receive them.

About the Author

Colin L. McMichen is an estate planning attorney who is based in Birmingham, Alabama. He founded Provident Law / Estate Planning LLC with the goal of helping families through proactive estate planning. He grew up in a rural area in Cherokee County, Alabama on Weiss Lake. After high school, he attended Auburn University and then pursued his law degree at Florida State University, where he met his wife, Nicole. Following law school, he moved to Panama City, Florida, where he practiced law for eleven years before returning to his Alabama roots.

Colin started Provident Law / Estate Planning LLC after experiencing firsthand the unfortunate consequences of families left without a plan. He saw probate court become a battleground, emotions running high, and legacies meant for loved ones consumed by legal fees. He is passionate about helping families avoid that situation with an estate plan.

Definitions

- **Will** A will is a legal document that coordinates the distribution of your assets after death. You can name beneficiaries in your will to specify who will receive your belongings, money, and property. If you have minor children, you may also name guardians for them.
- **Trust** A trust is a legal arrangement where a third party, called a trustee, holds assets on behalf of one or more beneficiaries. Imagine a trust as a big box you put your assets (house, stocks, personal property, etc.) in. You give the box (and everything inside) to someone you trust (the trustee) to manage and look after it. But the assets in the box are not for the trustee to keep. According to your instructions, the assets are meant for someone else (the beneficiary) to receive eventually.
- Power of Attorney A power of attorney is a legal document that allows another person, known as your agent, to make decisions on your behalf regarding your property. This means your agent can handle matters related to your property, including your money, even if you are unable to do so yourself.
- Advance Directive for Healthcare An advance directive for healthcare is a legal document that allows you to plan and communicate your wishes regarding medical treatment in case you become unable to make decisions for yourself due to illness or incapacity. It typically combines a living will and a healthcare proxy. The living will outlines specific instructions about the types of medical treatments you do or do not want in certain situations, such as life support. The healthcare proxy designates a trusted person, known as a healthcare proxy, to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to do so yourself. This document ensures that your healthcare preferences are respected and followed, even if you cannot communicate them directly.
- **HIPAA Authorization** A HIPAA authorization allows your trusted family members and/or loved ones to gain access to your medical information. This is especially helpful if you have a serious illness or if you become temporarily or permanently incapacitated.

Legal Disclaimer

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