

WHY PLAN? avoid probate | control asset distribution | protect loved ones | minimize taxes

Probate is the legal process through which assets are distributed and the decedent's debts and taxes are settled.

- takes 12-18 months
- very costly (~\$30,000 for a gross asset value of \$500,000)

THE BIG FOUR

These four documents form the foundation of an estate plan, providing comprehensive protection for your assets, healthcare decisions, and loved ones in the event of your death or incapacity.

Living Trust

...a revocable and amendable legal document that outlines what happens to your assets when you pass away.

Benefits

- save time and money by avoiding probate
- private and confidential
- maintains family harmony
- have control over asset distribution

*The trustee plays a critical role in the administration of a trust. It is essential to choose a trustworthy, competent, and capable trustee to fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities with diligence and integrity.

Will

There are two types of wills used in estate planning, each serving slightly different purposes.

- **Standard Will:** a foundational document that outlines how you want your assets to be distributed after your death.
- **Pour-Over Will:** a type of will that is used in conjunction with a revocable living trust.
 - Acts as a safety net to ensure that any assets inadvertently left out of the trust are still transferred into the trust and distributed according to your wishes.



Medical Directive

Outlines medical wishes and names an agent to communicate on your behalf if you become incapacitated or pass away.

Medical Directives also include:

- organ donation wishes
- autopsy authorization
- burial/cremation wishes
- end of life decisions (life support)

*This document is important because California and Federal law states that doctors cannot discuss ANY of your private medical information with ANYONE without your verbal or written consent.

Power of Attorney

...a legal document that designates someone to make financial and legal decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated or otherwise unable to manage your affairs.

This appointed individual has access and the authority to:

- pay your bills
- bank accounts
- sign your name
- business
- taxes
- contract with attorneys
- contract with realtors to sell property to pay for daily expenses
- government benefits