



Future-Proofing Your Plan

*Making Sure Your Will, POA & Healthcare Documents Work
When Needed Most*

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Presented October 22, 2026 | Via Zoom

Ensuring Your Legacy

- First 48 hours
- Important documents to review
- Your legacy
- Legacy giving options

First 48 Hours

When you don't want to be scrambling

- Incapacity
 - Where's the Health Care Proxy, who's appointed?
 - Where's the Power of Attorney (if you haven't already been set up with banks, etc..)?
- Death
 - Burial plans?
 - Are there any instructions? Contingencies?
 - Where is the will and everything else?

Important Documents to Review

Advanced Health Care Directive/Living Will

- Very important!
- Who is named?
- Is there a backup also named?
- Have you spoken to them about this?
- Does it include clergy to consult? HIPAA Release?
- Witnessed or notarized?
- Has anything changed?
- Who has possession of it?

Important Documents to Review

For those looking instructions that must be followed

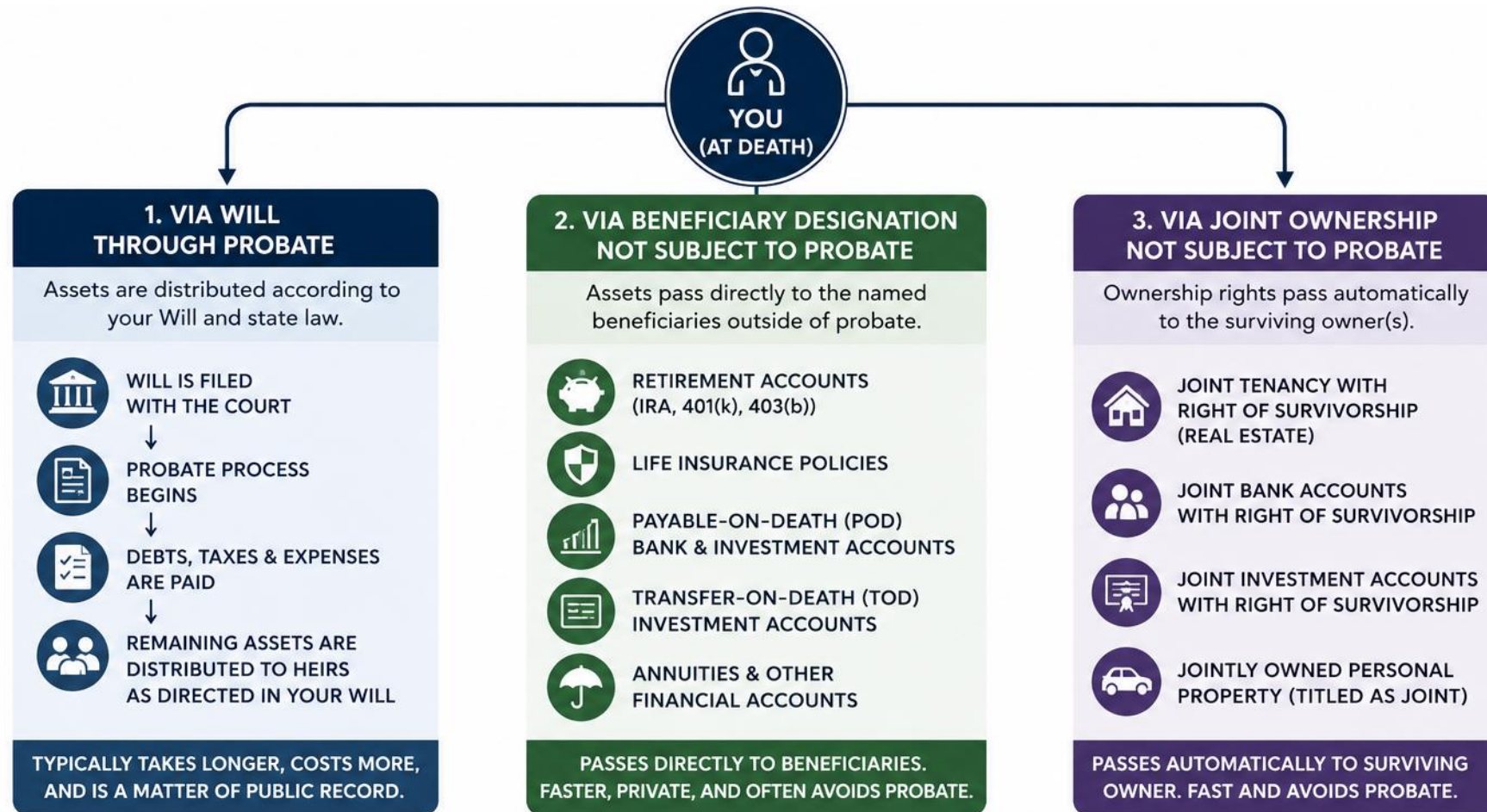
- **POLST**— Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment. It records medical orders about CPR, ventilators, and other life-sustaining treatments – signed by your doctor
- **DNR** – Do Not Resuscitate – POLST covers
- **DNI** – Do Not Intubate—no breathing tube – also covered by POLST

Important Documents to Review

Power of Attorney (POA)

- Look at it closely
- Is it missing any signatures? Powers section initialed?
- Does it reflect your current wishes?
- Have you moved states?
- Does your chosen POA have the original?
- Create new POA, if needed
- If health concerns are already an issue, go ahead and start getting the document approved by banks, etc.

How Assets Transfer After Death



Important Documents to Review

Your Last Will and Testament

- Look at it closely
- Is it missing any signatures or initials or pages?
- Does it reflect your current wishes?
- Have you moved states?
- Executor? Beneficiaries?
- Can it be accessed by those who need access
- Does it include a “self-proving” affidavit?
- Create new will, if needed

Important Documents to Review

Beneficiary Designations

- Look at them closely – all accounts and policies!
- Submitted properly? Make sure they are recorded!
- Do they reflect your current wishes? Estate division as you intend?
- Over a majority of your estate may be governed by these!
- Update as needed!

Important Documents to Review

Other important steps

- An updated **inventory** of your assets, holdings, accounts, passwords, etc..
- Password Managers With “Emergency Access” or “Digital Legacy” Platforms
- A special place for your will and POA and other documents
- Communicate your intent to your loved ones

Tabs in Template Excel Inventory

Personal Information	Important Contacts
Estate Planning Documents	Digital Access
Bank Accounts	Investments
Retirement Accounts	Life Insurance
Real Estate	Business Interests
Trusts	Safe Deposit Boxes
Debts & Liabilities	Monthly Expenses
Income Sources	Personal Property
Final Instructions	

Where to Keep These Documents

- Safe deposit box?
- With your attorney?
- Fireproof box/file? NOK Box – look on Amazon
- With your POA/Health Proxy/Executor?
- Who knows where to find them?
- Does your POA/Health Proxy/Executor know what to do with these documents?

Trust Strategies

1. Simple Living Trust

For Simplicity & Probate Avoidance

Designed for individuals and families who want to avoid probate, maintain privacy, and manage assets efficiently.

IDEAL IF YOU:

- ✓ Own modest to moderate assets
- ✓ Want to avoid probate and keep matters private
- ✓ Want flexibility to make changes
- ✓ Want your loved ones to avoid court delays

BENEFITS

Avoids probate

Maintains privacy

You stay in control and can change or cancel it

A great foundational plan for many individuals and families.

Living Trusts

A great option for those taking this process very seriously

- Put as many assets into the trust name as possible
- You are still the taxpayer
- All assets owned by the trust are controlled by you when you are well and of sound mind
- If you become disabled or lose mental capacity, your alternate trustee steps in (stronger than a Power of Attorney)
- Frequent changes (annual) are very common
- Combines planning for possible disability, avoiding/reducing probate, privacy and your final wishes all in one

Trust Strategies

2. Irrevocable Medicaid Asset Protection Trust (MAPT)

For Long-Term Care Protection

Designed to protect assets from Medicaid spend-down requirements and preserve wealth for heirs.

IDEAL IF YOU:

- ✓ Are concerned about the high cost of long-term care
- ✓ Want to protect assets from Medicaid
- ✓ Want to preserve your home and savings for heirs
- ✓ Are willing to give up control of assets in the trust

BENEFITS

Protects assets from Medicaid spend-down

Preserves wealth for loved ones

May shield assets from creditors*

Requires planning in advance. Irrevocable = you give up control.

Trust Strategies

3. Advanced / Tax Planning Trust

For Higher Net Worth & Tax Efficiency

Designed for individuals and families with significant assets who want to reduce or eliminate estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer taxes.

IDEAL IF YOU:

- ✓ Have a high net worth (approaching or over estate tax exemption)
- ✓ Want to reduce or eliminate estate & gift taxes
- ✓ Want to pass wealth to multiple generations
- ✓ Are comfortable with more complex planning

BENEFITS

Reduces or avoids estate, gift & GST taxes

Preserves wealth for future generations

Asset protection and control advantages

More complex and generally for higher asset levels.

Trust Strategies

4. First-Party Special Needs Trust

For the Beneficiary's Own Assets

Holds assets belonging to a person with a disability, such as settlement proceeds or an outright inheritance, while helping preserve SSI and Medicaid eligibility when properly structured.

IDEAL IF YOU:

- ✓ Have a disability and assets in your own name
- ✓ Receive a settlement or an outright inheritance
- ✓ Are under age 65 when the trust is established and funded
- ✓ Need a trustee to manage funds for your sole benefit

BENEFITS

Can preserve SSI and Medicaid eligibility

Funds supplemental needs and quality of life

Provides ongoing trustee management

Medicaid payback from remaining trust assets at death is required.

Trust Strategies

5. Third-Party Special Needs Trust

For Gifts & Inheritances from Others

Holds assets provided by parents, grandparents or others for a person with a disability, while helping preserve SSI and Medicaid eligibility when properly structured.

IDEAL IF YOU:

- ✓ Want to provide for a loved one with a disability
- ✓ Plan to leave gifts, an inheritance or life insurance
- ✓ Want a trustee to oversee supplemental support
- ✓ Want remaining assets to pass to others you name

BENEFITS

Can preserve SSI and Medicaid eligibility

No Medicaid payback for properly funded third-party assets

Remaining funds go to named remainder beneficiaries

Use only others' assets. Distributions must follow benefit rules.

Other Ways to Reduce/Avoid Probate

Probate: bad rap for 50+ years

- Beneficiary designations
- Re-titling property giving right of survivorship
 - Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship (JTWROS)
 - Tenancy by the Entirety
 - Community Property with Right of Survivorship
- Retained Life Estate
- Outright gifts

Choosing Executors/Trustees

Perhaps the hardest and biggest decision

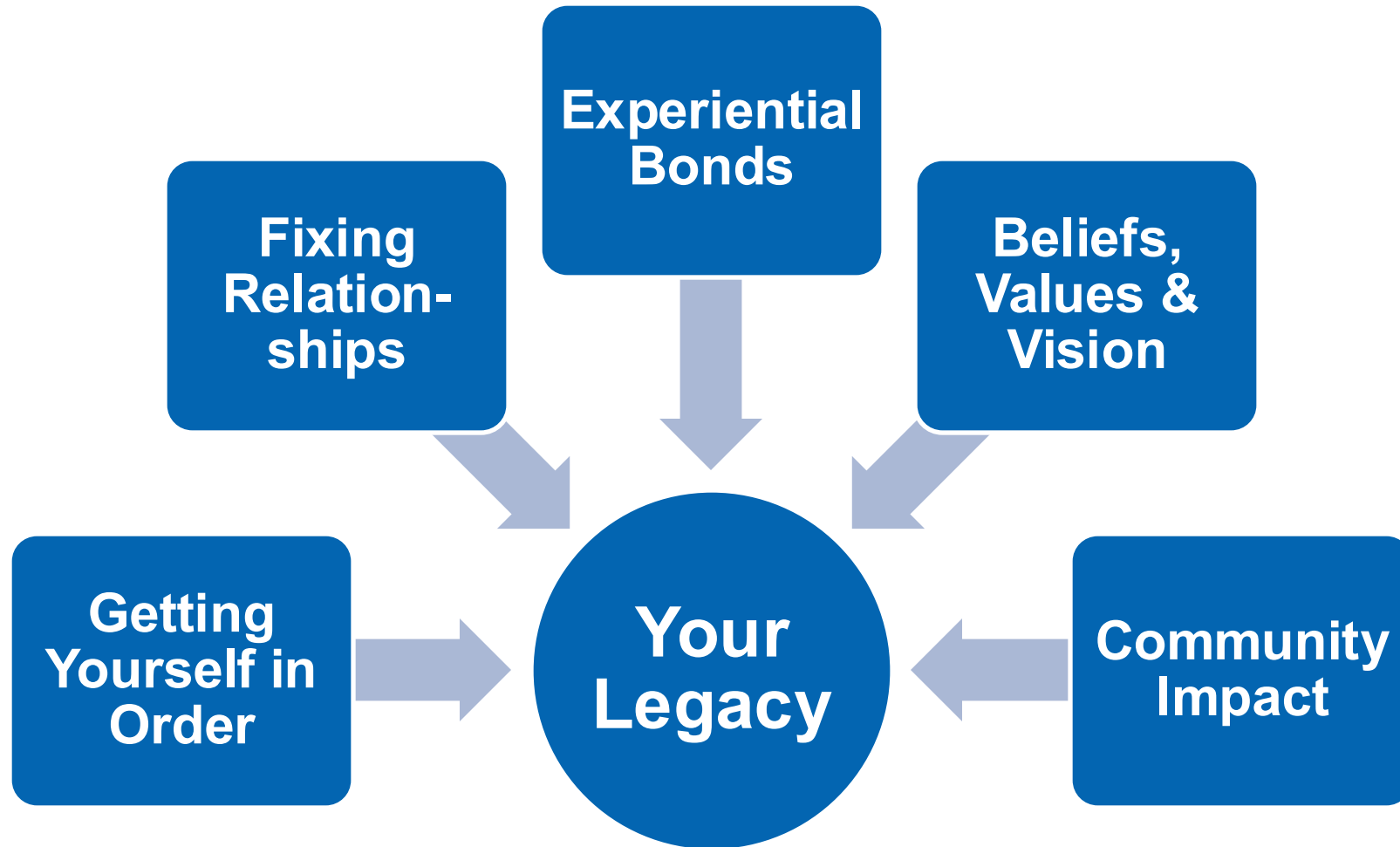
- Without trusted child or close relatives available, a very tricky question
- What about naming a nonprofit or position/employee of a nonprofit (who you are already leaving in your will)?
- What about your attorney?
- Professional executor, such as a trust company, law firm, or financial institution?
- What if none of the above work?

Communicating Your Intentions

Not legally binding but very important in avoiding family feuds

- Do it in writing – a letter to the family
- Do it in person – a family meeting
- As your intentions change, so should your documents – go back to your attorney
- Don't wait until it's too late to straighten out family relationship issues

Thinking About Your Legacy



A Financial Plan Can Solve Many Issues



Your Legacy

Think Deeply

- Planning in order? Your wishes will be fulfilled? No chaos or years of battles?
- Repaired relationships where possible?
- Taken opportunities to create memories with loved ones? Trips to places you have always wanted to see?
- Communicated your life messages to loved ones?
- Chosen charitable causes that represent values/actions that are important to you that you want to continue after your passing?
- ***Aligning of Values to be Preserved for the Future***

Your Legacy

Practical Charitable Legacy Ideas

- Include your most important charities in your will or trust
- Beneficiary of your IRA, life insurance, other accounts or policies
- Charitable gift annuities
- Real estate? Art? Jewelry or other valuables.

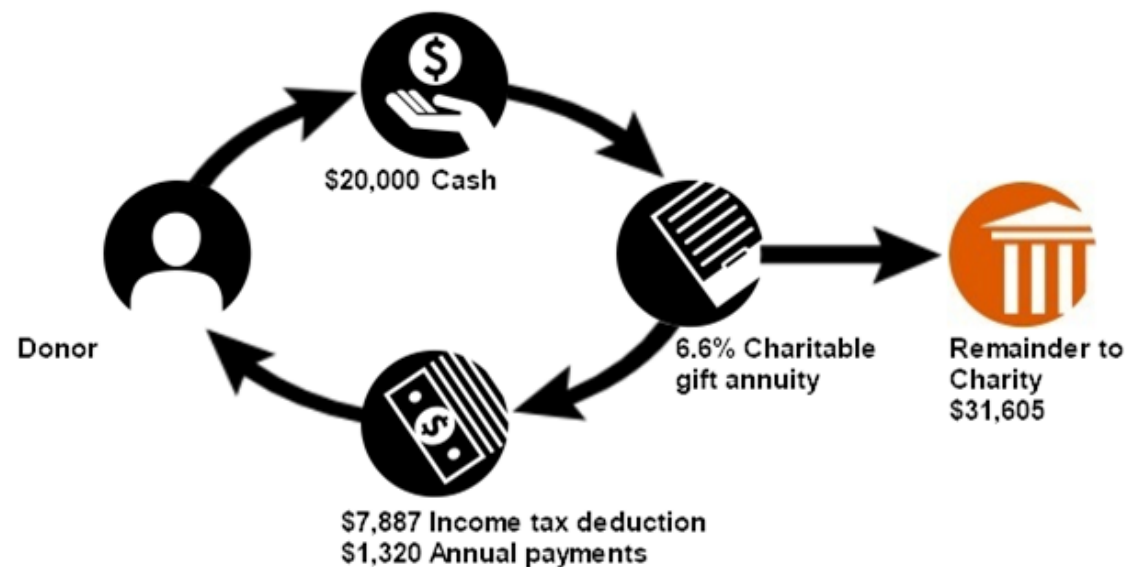
IRAs and Other Retirement Plans

IRAs Offer Great Planning Opportunities

- IRA Rollover (QCD) Giving is the most important tool for you!
- Age 70.5+, max \$111,000 a year, counts towards RMD
- Amazing for older, non-itemizers – any level giver
- CGA now even possible for up to \$55,000
- IRA beneficiary designations are also easy planned gifts!

Charitable Gift Annuity

- Age 72
- \$836 tax-free for the first 14.5 years
- Could be funded with IRA that would count for RMD but no deduction or tax-free



How Does This All Impact Us?

Legacy alignment

- The earlier you can start, the better
- Downsize, consolidate, organize
- NOK (next of kin) box
- Think deeply about causes that represent values that you mean the most to you
- Your message to loved ones and the world
- Feel free to set up no cost appointment to discuss with me!



**Thank You for
Participating!**

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[Schedule an appointment online](#)