

Estate Planning 

FOR YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE/PARTNER

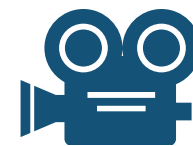
THE SECOND IN OUR ESTATE PLANNING FOR LIFE SITUATIONS WEBINAR SERIES



Wednesday, March 4
Starts at 10 AM EST



Presented By: Alan D. Feller, Esq.
Owner, The Feller Group, P.C.



DISCLAIMER

This webinar is for educational purposes only. It is not legal advice. Laws vary by state and individual circumstances.



Welcome & Purpose of This Webinar

Our Goal Today



**Build awareness
around key estate
planning tools**



**Help you identify
potential gaps in your
current planning**



**Equip you with the
right questions to ask
moving forward**

Estate Planning as Legal Protection

Estate planning is not just financial – it is legal protection.

A well designed plan helps:



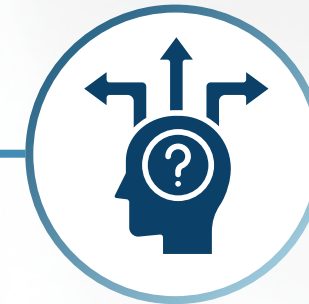
Ensure your spouse/partner has legal authority to act



Avoid unnecessary court involvement



Provide clear instructions when you are unavailable



Reduce uncertainty during emotional moments

Consequences of Not Having Documents

The Cost of Not Being Prepared

Without key documents:



Courts may appoint
decision-makers



Access to accounts
may be delayed



Guardianship
proceedings may be
required



State law, not personal
wishes, controls
outcomes

Consequences of Not Having Documents

Why Gaps Create Risk



Missing documents
create delays



Delays often increase
emotional and
financial strain



Courts may appoint
decision-makers



Families may lose
control over outcomes



Uncertainty can
complicate already
difficult moments

Core Estate Planning Documents Overview

The Cost of Not Being Prepared

Many Estate Plans Include:

Last Will and Testament

Revocable Living Trust (if applicable)

Power of Attorney

Healthcare Proxy

Family Agreement

Beneficiary Designations



Core Estate Planning Documents Overview

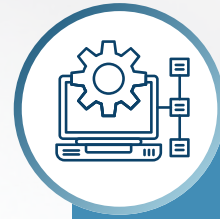
How These Documents Work Together



Each document serves a specific purpose



No single document covers every situation



A complete plan functions as a system



Problems arise when documents conflict



Coordination matters as much as creation



Wills

How Your Wishes Will Be Carried Out

A will typically:

Directs how assets are distributed



Names guardians for minor children



Appoints an executor



Wills

Important To Note

Wills require probate



They do not control assets with named beneficiaries



They do not provide incapacity protection



Wills

Understanding the Limits of a Will



A will is only effective after death



It does not authorize decisions during incapacity



Additional documents are often needed



It will require court involvement



Certain assets pass outside of a will

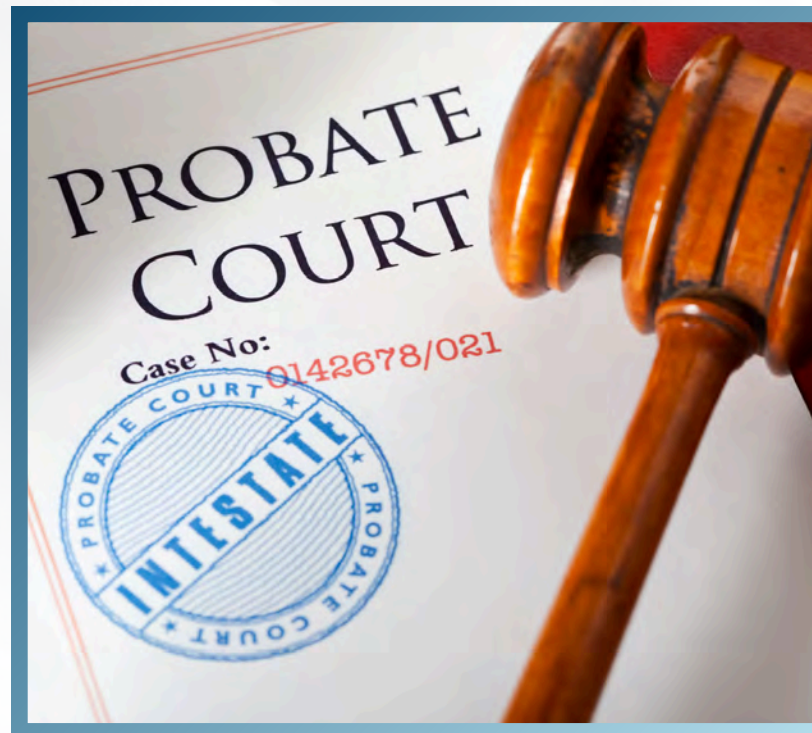


Trusts

Securing & Managing Assets

A Trust May Be Used To:

Avoid or streamline probate



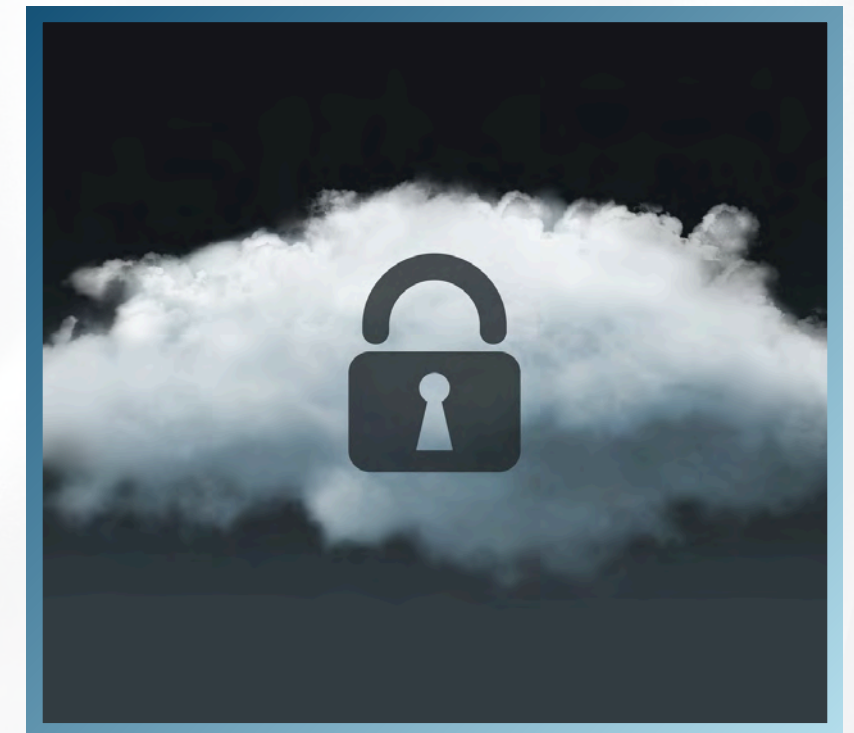
Provide ongoing management for beneficiaries



Protect Assets for Spouses/Partners & Children



Offer privacy and continuity



Trusts

When They Add Value

Trusts can provide continuity



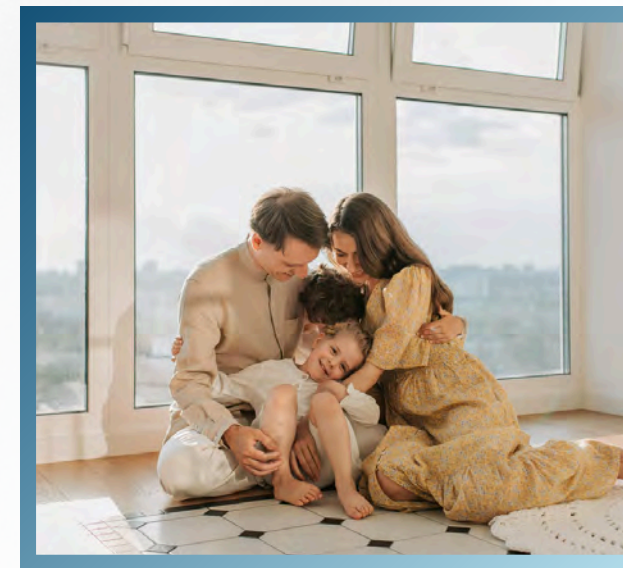
They may reduce or avoid probate



They allow for structured asset management



They offer flexibility for unique family needs



Trusts should align with personal goals



Power of Attorney

Who Will Make Decisions On Your Behalf?

A trusted person to manage finances if you cannot



Bills to be paid and accounts accessed



Legal authority without court involvement



Without it, families may need court approval to act.

Power of Attorney

Authority During Incapacity

Incapacity can happen unexpectedly



Financial responsibilities continue regardless



Legal authority is required to act



Courts may intervene without documentation



Planning ahead avoids unnecessary delays



Healthcare Documents

Your Medical Wishes

Healthcare Proxy



Living Will or Advance Directive



They Help Ensure:

- ▶ **Living Will / Advance Directive**
- ▶ **Someone you trust can speak for you**
- ▶ **Family members are not left guessing**

Without proper planning, families may need court approval to act.

Reducing Medical Uncertainty

How You Will Be Taken Care Of

Medical decisions often require immediacy



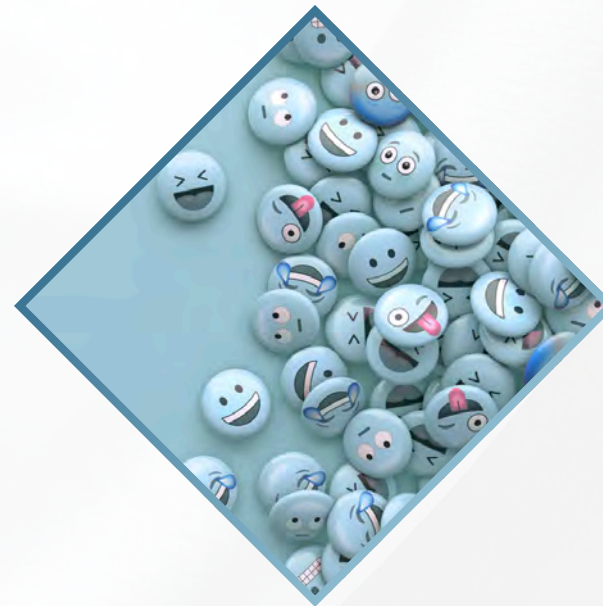
Written guidance provides direction



Families feel more confident with clarity



Emotions can make decisions harder



Legal authority prevents confusion



Beneficiary Designations

Who Will Carry Your Legacy

Certain assets pass by beneficiary designation, not by will or trust:



Retirement accounts



Life insurance



Some bank and investment accounts



Beneficiary Designations

Who Will Carry Your Legacy

Beneficiary designations should:



Be reviewed regularly



Align with your overall plan



Reflect current relationships



Beneficiary Designations

Why Coordination Matters

**Some assets
bypass wills and
trusts**



**Beneficiary
designations operate
independently**



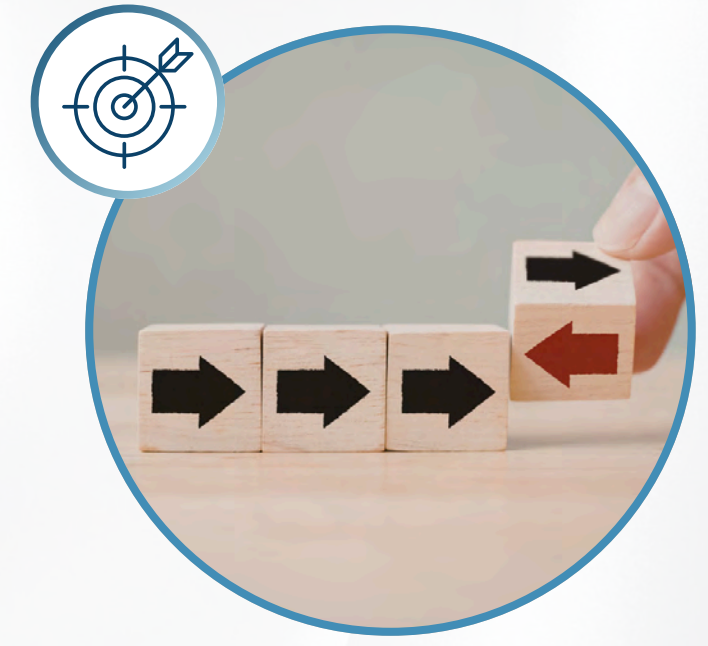
**Outdated
designations can
override intentions**



**Regular review is
essential**



**Alignment prevents
unintended outcomes**



Protecting Your Spouse/Partner Legally

Planning For The Ones That Matter Most

Proper planning helps ensure your spouse:



Has legal authority to manage assets



Is not delayed by probate or court processes



Is protected during incapacity or illness



Can avoid unnecessary legal expenses



Protecting Your Spouse/Partner Legally

Immediate Access Matters



Legal delays often occur during emergencies




Authority allows quick action



Access to funds may be time-sensitive



Court processes can create stress



Planning helps protect a spouse during transitions



Common Legal Gaps

Frequent issues families face:



Documents conflicting with beneficiary designations

Outdated plans after major life changes

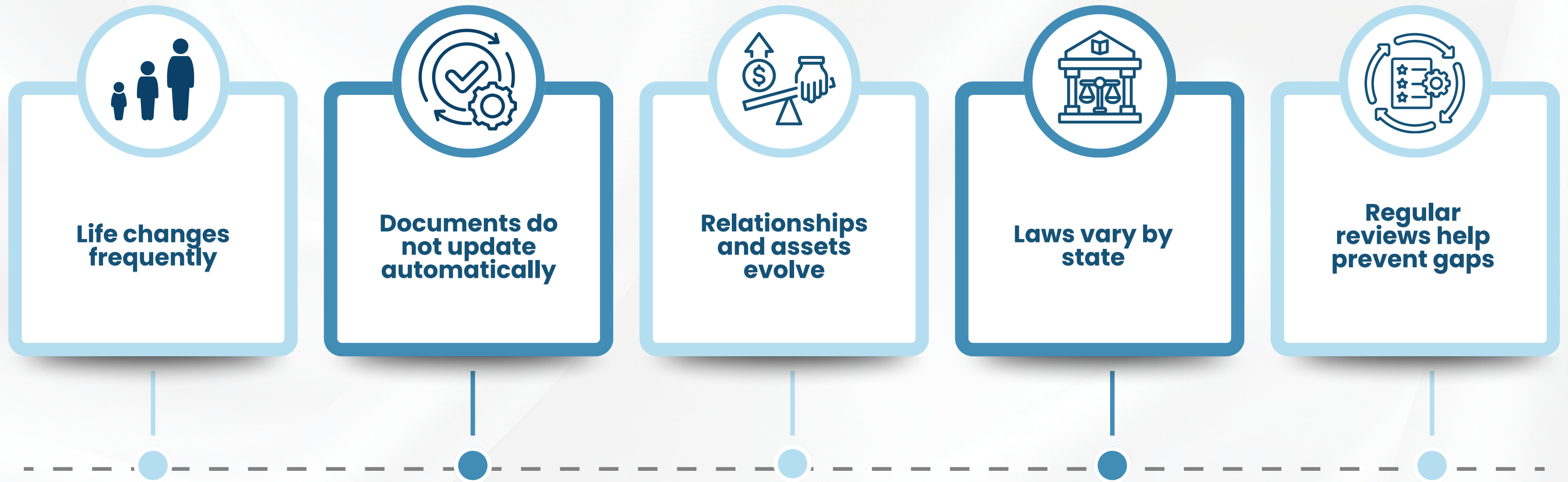
Missing incapacity documents

Outdated executors or agents

Documents created in another state and never reviewed

Why Plans Become Outdated

The Details That Are Often Overlooked



Asking the Right Questions

You don't need all the answers – just the right questions

Do my documents work together?



Who has authority during incapacity?



Are my spouse/partner and children fully protected?



What happens immediately if something happens to me?



When should this plan be reviewed?



Questions Reveal Clarity



Turning Education Into Action

Education creates awareness –
action creates protection.

01

Reviewing existing documents

02

Updating beneficiary designations

03

Scheduling a planning review

04

**Coordinating legal and financial
strategies**



Small Steps Make a Difference



Reviewing one document
is meaningful



Clarity builds
over time



01

01

02

03

04

Progress does not
require perfection



Progress does not
require perfection



Action turns
education into
protection

THE FELLER GROUP PROCESS

Our 5 Simple Steps To Your Estate Planning



30 MINUTE CASE EVALUATION MEETING

Start by contacting our Firm by phone at (845) 621-8640.

Our team members will then work with you to coordinate a meeting date and time most convenient for all involved parties.

Your initial consultation normally lasts 30 minutes and the Attorney will outline a proposed course of action tailored to your needs, along with associated fees to guide you through the process.

1



SIGN LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT

Upon retaining our Firm to assist with your investment, our Team will provide you with a list of 'homework' items.

You will be provided with a simple and confidential Estate Planning Questionnaire to assist you with gathering the necessary information to better inform our team to craft the best plan for you and your loved ones. You can easily access these forms on our website or request them via email or mail.

2



DESIGN MEETING

During your design meeting you'll review the estate planning questionnaire with our team.

Typically lasting 1 hour, this meeting allows you to openly discuss your objectives for your plan and address specific concerns related to your family. Our environment is safe and welcoming, ensuring you feel comfortable sharing your thoughts and preferences.

3



REVIEW DRAFTS OF YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Following the design meeting, our Team will prepare drafts of your estate planning documents for your review.

Once you've had the opportunity to consider the drafts, you're welcome to share any questions, comments, or revisions with our Team. Your input is valuable in ensuring that your estate plan accurately reflects your wishes and needs.

4



FINALIZE YOUR ESTATE PLAN

At the meeting to sign your estate planning documents, you will meet with your Team and execute the documents.

Upon signing, the Firm will then finalize the necessary steps to properly implement your estate plan, provide you with a digital copy of the same, and the original documents will be provided to you for safe keeping.

5

The image features a stylized graphic of the letters 'Q', '&', and 'A' in a large, white, outlined font. The 'Q' is a speech bubble shape, the '&' is a classic ampersand, and the 'A' is a blocky, geometric letter. The text 'QUESTIONS & ANSWERS' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font across the middle of these large letters. The background consists of several overlapping, curved, light blue bands that create a sense of depth and movement.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Thank You!



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