Estate Planning Wade H. Farmer, CPA

Tax Consequences

- Does your estate exceed \$11.4M individually? If not, federal tax consequences are not a factor in estate planning.
- Tennessee no longer has an inheritance tax.

Essential Estate Planning Facts

- It is not just for the wealthy.
- Without a plan, TN law controls.
- Without a plan, it's more difficult for your children.
- Proper plans can protect your children from their own misjudgments and bad habits.
- It is essential for second marriage families.
- It allows you to give generously to charity.

Tennessee Intestacy Succession

If you die with:	Asset direction:
Children, no spouse	Children inherit all
Spouse, no descendants	Spouse inherits all
Spouse and descendants	Spouse and descendants equally with spouse 1/3
Parents, no spouse, no descendants	Parents inherit all
Siblings, no spouse, no descendants, no parents	Siblings inherit all

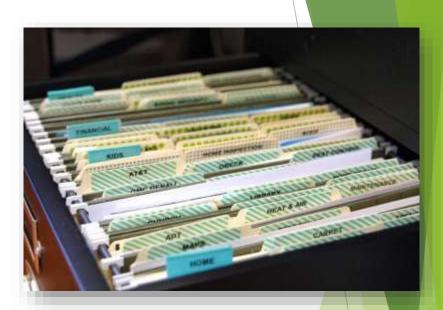
Assets Unaffected by Intestacy

- Life insurance proceeds with designation
- Funds in IRA or 401K with designation
- Bank accounts or brokerage accounts payable-on-death
- Property owned by joint tenancy or tenancy by entirety
- Assets in living trust

Estate Planning Basics

Terminology

- Documents
 - ►Will at death
 - ► Living will
 - Powers of attorney -financial & health
 - Revocable living trust



Since I Need a Will...

- ► What do I need to consider?
 - Assets to be included
 - Who gets what and when
 - Executor and backup executor
 - ► Children's guardian(s)
- ► Where do I go?
- When do I begin, and when do I update?

Will vs Revocable Trust

- Trust benefits:
 - Privacy at death
 - ► Simpler management by trustee
- Revocable trusts provide no tax benefit
- Do not be afraid of probate in TN



Beneficiaries

- Beneficiary designations supersede the will
- Primary and contingent
- Correct and up-to-date information



Minors

- Name guardian(s) in will or state will determine custody
- Guardians over person and over property
- Discuss with guardian beforehand



What Is the Bare Minimum?

- A will, even if all assets to one individual
- Beneficiary designations
- Healthcare POA/living will



List of Assets

- Make sure your spouse/heirs knows of and can find your assets
 - ► Account list
 - Document location list
 - ► Digital asset inventory



Who Should You Name as Executor?

- **▶** Communicate
- **Lead**
- Be proactive
- ▶ Responsible
- **COMMUNICATE**

Gifting vs Inheriting

- Gifting during life step into owner's basis
- Inheriting at death step up in basis
- Life estates

