

Protecting What You Value Most Through Estate Planning and Asset Protection

Providing Solutions That Secure and Enhance Your Wealth and Your Legacy

Everyone understands the benefits of having unanticipated events. Hazard and casualty insurance is necessary to provide protection from the risks of fire, floods and wind damage. Liability insurance is necessary to provide protection from the risks of auto accidents and personal injury. But what can you do to protect your assets from claims in excess of your insurance or from risks of lawsuits or from unexpected business liabilities or from an overabundance tax consequences? Fortunately having an asset protection plan in place can help insulate you from these potentially significant risks.

We believe in providing you with effective solutions so that you can have confidence that your assets and your legacy are protected. An effective asset protection plan needs to be in place before a lawsuit or claim is made against you, and well in advance of your retirement or death, so it is important to take the step toward greater protection today.

Wild Felice & Partners is a full-service, Fort Lauderdale, Florida based law firm with a specialty in asset protection. We utilize a combination of estate planning, real estate law, corporate formation, family law, and asset structuring to assure that our clients are protected from potential litigation, creditors, and any other threats that may be looming. A properly designed asset protection plan can accomplish many of your most important objectives:

- · Protection of family savings and investments from lawsuits and claims.
- · Protection against inadequate or unavailable insurance coverage.
- · Insulation of rental properties reducing your exposure to potential lawsuits.
- · Protection of business assets and accounts receivable from potential claims.
- · Elimination of probate.
- · Reduction of estate taxes.



2012: The End of the World As We Know It Edition

There are many theories about the 2012 cataclysmic end of the world. However, don't be surprised when nothing happens. So its still important to have your Plan in order just in case you survive the zombie apocalypse. In this issue we will discuss:

- Prepare your cataclysm proof Estate Plan
- Elizabeth Taylor: keeping it private
- Surviving Probate.

Every American should have an estate plan in place but the need for comprehensive estate planning is even greater when you have children.



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The End of the World As We Know It! ... So Get Your Estate Plan Ready

There are many theories about the 2012 cataclysmic end of the world. It could be caused by galactic re-alignment, an asteroid impacting the Earth, global flooding, an interplanetary collision, apes taking over our planet, or maybe just because the Mayan calendar says so. Whatever the theory is, you probably already saw it in a movie. However, don't be surprised when nothing happens. Do you remember the Y2K phenomena? Computers were supposed to come to a screeching halt and the world would be thrown into anarchy. So don't overlook your Estate Plan, just in case nothing happens this year.

The basic Estate Plan will contain documents that provide protection both during life and after death. The Durable Power of Attorney and the Health Care Surrogate documents ensure that your family will be able to help you when any time it's necessary. The Revocable Trust, Assignment of Property into Trust and the Last Will provide you with control over how your assets will be distributed after your death. These documents protect your loved ones from the burden of making difficult decisions and family disputes because you've planned and made your wishes known.

Estate planning can be scary, because it requires one to admit to mortality. Do not consider this as a way to admit that you may die, but rather as a way to make sure that your family is taken care of in the long run. Those that don't plan, risk their future and their family's future. So just in case we don't get overrun in the Zombie Apocalypse, get your Estate Plan ready.



Michael D. Wild is a Florida attorney specializing in the areas of estate planning and asset protection. For more information on successful Florida estate planning and asset protection techniques, please contact the South Florida law firm of Wild Felice & Partners, P.A. at 954-944-2855 or via email at info@wfplaw.com to schedule your free consultation. Protecting what you value most.



Did you know?

Iconic movie star Elizabeth Taylor's death is a reminder of the importance of a solid Estate Plan. Elizabeth Taylor was widely recognized as one of the best and most popular actresses of all times. Given her success, both on and off the screen, it should be no surprise that her fortune has been estimated to be worth as much as 1 billion dollars. Prior to her death she established the Elizabeth Taylor Trust which will manage her estate.

Although some information has been made public, tabloid websites and media cannot obtain a complete copy of the trust from the court. Unlike a will, a trust does not become part of the public record. As a result, the trust not only helps Elizabeth Taylor's estate avoid probate, it also offers anonymity and privacy to Ms. Taylor and the trust beneficiaries. The privacy offered by trusts is an additional benefit that should be considered when determining the appropriate Estate Planning vehicles to use.

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Surviving the Probate Process: How a Will Works

Whether or not the decedent had a will, a probate proceeding may be necessary. A will doesn't eliminate the requirement for probate. However, a will guides your personal representative and lets the world know exactly how you want your assets distributed. It is the main mechanism used in the probate process. Probate is a supervised process for recognizing and collecting the assets of a deceased person, resolving their debts, and splitting up the remainder if the assets among the beneficiaries. A judge oversees probate matters. The judge appoints the representative and gives them "letters of administration." This document represents to the world that the personal representative is empowered to act on behalf of the deceased's estate.

If the person died without a will it is referred to intestate. If they die intestate the execution will be handled in accord with state statutes. Probate courts ensure that the law is followed. If a person died with a well executed will they're testate. The court will make sure that it is real and assets are handed out according to the will. However, it is crucial to remember that a will can be contested. This can put off the distribution for years and incur high costs for the deceased's Estate because both court and attorney's costs are paid by the Estate.

Many times, family members or other heirs may have clashing interests. Often, families argue over large assets and in some cases, over small items of sentimental value. The interested parties with contrasting claims then hire an attorney. Once litigation starts, family affairs are made available to the public; anyone can access them. The damage done to family relationships can rarely be repaired. That's why it's important to consult an experienced Estate Planning attorney, so that you can leave behind an opportunity to unite your loved ones and not to burden them with family conflict.



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Chicken Little: The Sky is Falling!

Chicken Little believed the sky was falling when an acorn fell on its head, so he decided to tell the King. While on his journey he met other animals which joined it in the quest. The other animals believed everything they heard without question. Along the way they met Foxy Loxy. The fox, taking advantage of the gullible crowd, lead them to a "shortcut" which happened to be the entrance to his den. Once inside the den, Foxy and his family descended upon the group of animals and enjoyed a very fine meal.

Don't believe everything you hear. It's important that you always make informed decisions. That way you eliminate risk and protect the ones you love. Visit an Estate Planning attorney, those you love may depend on it.

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