

This is a transcript of the video called **Estate Planning from the Heart**



Nobody wants to be a guardian, an executor, a widower, or a successor trustee. And you do not want to be a ward of the state. You see each one of these terms, whether we fully understand them or not denotes that someone has died, or someone had a major illness or accident, Each of these words represents a respond that someone must take on and

a life that has been changed in a way that was not wanted or deserved.

And each one of these titles are taken on by everyday people of all ages and genders. You see, we don't know when, or if we, or a loved one will be in an accident or come down with an illness. It would be naive for us to simply say, it's not going to happen to me. And, what about the absolute inevitability? Let's be real one day. Each of us will die It's the only way out.

To say I'll take care of that when I'm older, really doesn't make economic or emotional sense. And please allow me to tell you why I say this. And this will only make sense, and it is really only a message to people who are homeowners or parents and have people they really care about.

It's important that I clarify that I'm not an attorney. And what I will be saying here is strictly what I've learned professionally as an educator on this topic for over 12 years and personally, as my wife and I had more than our share of working through this in our own lives.

First let's talk about a few of these terms. A ward of the state. This is a person just like you or me who due to an accident or an illness, maybe a bike crash or early onset Alzheimer's, we can no longer speak for ourselves. Now we need someone to step in and help make decisions for us and to handle our finances.

This happened to a 39-year-old Florida woman, about a decade ago. And her story stayed in the news for eight years while her husband fought with the state and her parents. While this young mother of three is in a vegetative state, the decision to carry on her life or unhook the life supporting machines was being decided in the courts. All of this could have been avoided with a simple signature on a simple document.

See, its really no big deal, unless, unless we don't do it. In this case you would simply designate who will be that person or persons for you, saving the people you love and care about the hassle and the cost of becoming a court supervised guardian, while you become a ward of the state.

When I experience a medical situation that I found myself in an ambulance on the way to the hospital, this was about six years ago and totally unexpected to me or others. The comfort of knowing that my estate plan service company would be in our home, holding my wife's hand and guiding her through the steps that she would need to be taking legally and financially, if I didn't make it, gave me a sense of peace. That is hard to understand, knowing that she would not be going through what my siblings and I had to do when my own mother passed 20 years earlier, driving to her attorney's office on a winter morning, then 18 months of probate proceedings and a \$9,000 bill. Over the past two years, my wife and I have lost several family members, death from COVID as well as old age and sickness. The emotional rollercoaster that we experienced when handling affairs of our deceased relatives was directly proportional to how much and how little they planned. Feeling such as disappointment, surprise and sadness were joined with feeling abandoned and hurt. See a proper estate plan will also address your

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wishes about who will raise your minor children if you are unable. Knowing you have made this decision, which can always be changed, rather than allowing the courts or disagreeing relatives to make such an important decision is especially important to your role as a parent.

It simply should not be postponed. Once again its N B D it's no big deal. Well, unless.

What makes setting up a plan, a good economic decision? One option is to become a member and take care of all your, and your loved one's expenses with a simple upfront fee that surprises most people for the good when you hear it. So it's no longer about cost. It's about all the services you get during your lifetime and the assistance we will provide when your loved ones need it the most.

I will share a little more about this topic in another video, where we look at the rational side of making this decision to protect your legacy by leaving a plan and not a mess. Thank you. I look forward to talking with you soon.