

We would like to make sure our clients have four (4) main legal documents in place. Those documents are a **will, a healthcare directive, a durable financial power of attorney, and a trust.**

Did you know that if you don't have a **will**, the state you live in will provide one for you? The problem with this planning strategy, or lack thereof, is that you do not dictate where your assets go. Working with us and our professional network of Lawyers and CPA's will answer your specific questions regarding your specific needs.

The second important document is a **healthcare directive** which usually consists of two parts: a living will and a power of attorney for healthcare matters. **A living will** specifies what types of medical treatments are desired. A healthcare power of attorney is a legal document that names an individual you designate to make healthcare decisions if you are incapable of doing so yourself.

A third document that is a must have is a **durable power of attorney**. This document delegates a person's legal authority to another designated person with regards to their financial affairs. This will allow someone to transact business for you on your behalf. Just remember that in the event of your death, the power of attorney will no longer be valid. That brings me to the last document that we recommend: **a trust**. There are many types of trusts people use. The most common is a revocable living trust. With a revocable living trust, you are able to avoid probate. Probate can be time consuming and expensive, and with a living trust, assets can pass as you direct in the document automatically. Also, it can serve as a financial power of attorney. Your trustee that you appoint will be able to handle financial affairs if you are incapacitated and it is written into the document. Moreover, where the durable financial power of attorney ends at your death, a trustee can still act on your estate's behalf with regard to financial affairs upon your death.

As we steadily move ahead towards the sunset of the higher levels of estate and gift tax exemptions in 2026, now is the time to start planning for the possibility that those levels become greatly reduced. Come talk to us at Solid Wealth where we can help you plan, protect, and prosper!

This summary of what is important is written by our back-office partners - Rachele Carmel, JD, CFP®, CTFA, Bison Advisors. Solid Wealth Company is a DBA of and offers investment advisory services through Bison Advisors, an SEC Registered Investment Adviser. Advisory representatives may also be insurance agents with licensed insurance agencies and receive compensation for products sold. Securities and Insurance products may lose value and are not insured by the FDIC. Bison Advisors analyzes but does not provide legal or tax advice.