

# ESTATE PLANNING



**A practical  
guide to  
help you  
plan your  
legacy and  
protect your  
wealth**

**Sage**

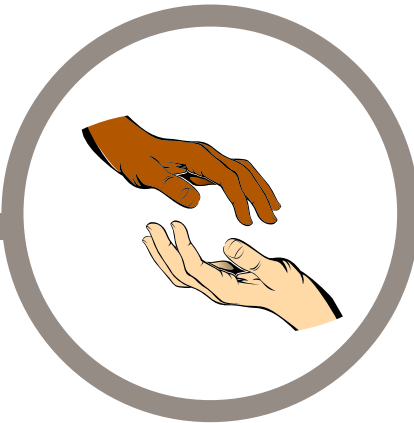
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# WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR MONEY WHEN YOU'RE GONE?



## FAMILY

The next 20 to 30 years will see the biggest family wealth handover in history.



## CHARITY

Charitable giving from Australia's wealthiest philanthropists are up 29% year on year



## PREDATORS AND CREDITORS

Over 50% of Australians don't have a Will, leaving their money unprotected

## MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN CONTROL OF YOUR MONEY

Having worked all your life to live a comfortable retirement and build up a strong legacy for your family means nothing if you do not have a proper estate plan in place. And there's more to estate planning than simply writing a Will.

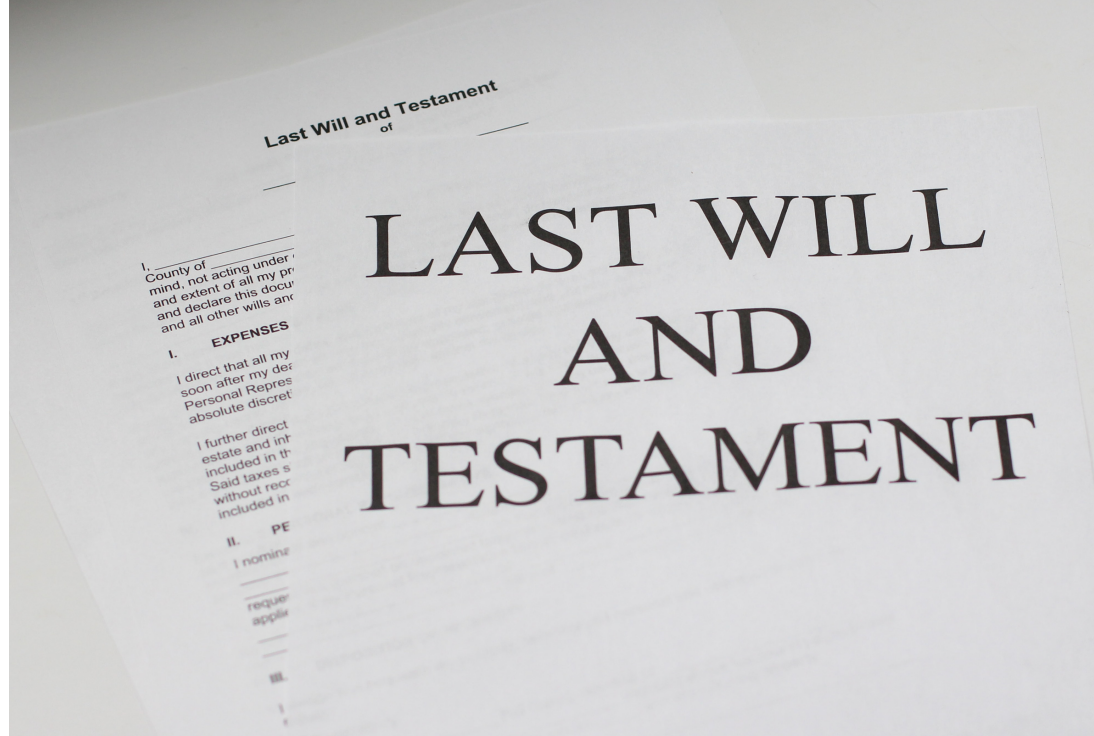


## THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTATE PLANNING

Estate planning is the distribution of your wealth and assets. This includes your family home and investment properties, superannuation balance, shares, life insurance, personal items, and collectibles. It encompasses three main areas.

# WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

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A Will is a legally binding document that outlines how you would like your assets and possessions distributed upon your passing.

The Will can include a range of special requests but should include your beneficiaries, the executor of your Will, and the assets you want to be included.

But writing a Will is not a set and forget process. Life is a constant state of change and with that comes new considerations. Therefore it is vitally important to update your Will whenever any major change occurs.

This can include a marriage or divorce, the birth of children, death of family members, significant changes to the value of your assets, entering or leaving a business and retirement.

Another important consideration is what is NOT distributed through your Will. For example, your Super balance is owned by the Super fund trustee and in order to ensure your Super balance is distributed according to your wishes, you will need to complete a Binding Death Benefit Nomination form.

Likewise, your life insurance payout will go directly to the beneficiary you nominated in your policy.

There will also be tax implications.

# POWER OF ATTORNEY

an adult residing at \_\_\_\_\_ (city), \_\_\_\_\_ not acting

A Power of Attorney is a legal document that allows you to appoint someone to act on your behalf. Appointing a Power of Attorney is always a tough decision and one you will need to think about very carefully. However, there are three different powers of attorney and each one has a different purpose.

## General

A General Power of Attorney lets someone act on your behalf on all **financial** matters. You can set limits around the powers if you wish. In all cases, the General Power of Attorney becomes immediately **void if you lose your mental capacity to make decisions**. At that point an Enduring Power of Attorney will kick in.

## Enduring

An Enduring Power of Attorney is the same as the General Power of Attorney except that it is **not** automatically revoked if you become mentally incapable. An Enduring Power of Attorney can continue to make important financial decisions in the event of your absence, illness or incapacity

## Enduring Guardian Advanced Health Directive

An Enduring Guardian Advanced Health Directive allows you to nominate someone to make **health decisions only** in the event that you lose your mental capacity. Decisions your Guardian can make include future health treatments you have, where you should live and whether to have life sustaining treatment withdrawn.



# Superannuation nominations



The distribution of Superannuation following your death can be a complex area because the money in a Super fund does not automatically form part of a deceased person's estate.

In fact, the balance is owned by the trustees of the Super fund and as such, they have discretion about whom to pay your savings to at the time of your death.

In order to ensure your Super savings are paid to the right person, you need to have a valid Binding Death Nomination. This is a written directive that sets out how you wish some of all of your Superannuation benefits to be distributed upon your passing.

It is important to structure your Super correctly because there are tax implications. Your Super savings can be received tax-free if they are passed on to your spouse, minor or interdependent. Other beneficiaries can be taxed up to 32%.

The nomination will need to be updated at least every three years and witnessed by two adults who are not identified in your nomination. It will lapse if it is not renewed.

If this nomination is valid at the time of the member's death, the trustee is bound by law to follow it.



Estate planning is a complex area that requires expert knowledge and a full understanding of the legalities.

It is important to have conversations around your legacy and the steps you need to make to ensure your assets are distributed as per your wishes.

Our advisers will help you understand the complexities of estate planning and assist in mapping out an inheritance framework that includes the intended treatment of assets and future inheritances.

**Call us on 08 9445 2955 to speak with an advisor today**

*HERE'S  
HOW  
WE  
CAN  
HELP*



**WE CAN HELP ENSURE YOUR LEGACY IS PROTECTED AND YOUR WISHES MET UPON YOUR PASSING**

*To speak with our Retirement Specialists, please contact us*



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