

# LIVING OUT YOUR TRUE WEALTH

Monthly Newsletter for our True Wealth Family



## The Importance of Power of Attorney & Estate Planning

When it comes to estate planning, many people often assume that having a will in place is enough. It's very important to have a will to rely on after someone's death, but what's often forgotten is the importance of having power of attorney documents in place that are very useful while someone is still living. Common examples are when an aging parent needs an adult child to handle their financial or medical affairs, or when a spouse is required to act on their spouse's behalf due to an injury, disability, or incapacitation. Without these documents in place ahead of time, it can be very difficult and time consuming for the appropriate parties to gain the legal ability to act on their loved one's behalf.

Plan ahead with your family and think about who would be making financial, medical, and legal decisions for you or your loved ones and get the proper power of attorney documents in place now.

Here are a few other practical estate planning tips for you and your loved ones:

- **Legacy Drawer:** Tell your family you love them by creating a lockbox or drawer where you keep your important documents & passwords, as well as contact information for advisors, attorneys, and insurance agents. Also keep a digital version of these items stored in a secure online or cloud-based storage system.
- **Asset Titling:** Many people don't realize that how your assets are titled usually takes precedence over what's written in your will. Use Joint Ownership or Transfer on Death (TOD) instructions where appropriate. This would include assets such as homes, cars, bank accounts, and investment accounts.
- **Beneficiary Selection:** Make sure to name your desired primary and secondary beneficiaries on retirement accounts, life insurance, and pensions or annuities. Beneficiary selections also supersede what's written in your will, so be intentional about this simple but important step.
- **Estate Documents:** Whether you use an attorney or other legal means, get your will and/or trust and power of attorney documents in place. You will decide where your assets should go, delegate who's responsible for managing your estate, who would make medical & financial decisions, as well as who would care for minor children. Don't leave your family guessing what your wishes are.
- **Family Meeting:** Take the time to sit down with your family and let them know your plans in case of the unexpected. Tell them what you've decided and what roles they each would play. The last thing anyone wants in the midst of hardship is surprises, so give yourself and your family the peace of mind that comes with planning ahead. Debt payments should also free up cash to put to work in investments that seek to build your wealth instead of eroding it.

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## Congratulations

### GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023!

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead set an example for the believers through your speech, behavior, love and faith.*

*1 Timothy 4:12*

