

Avoiding Family Conflicts After a Death

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No one likes to think about their own mortality, but making a proper estate plan can help to lessen the grief of loved ones left behind. Alternately, without a written estate plan, surviving family members are often saddled with the responsibility of making estate decisions without a clear understanding of the deceased's wishes.

The effects of poor [estate planning](#) [1] can be far-reaching, but perhaps one of the most insidious effects is the conflict that can occur within families as a result. Many individuals believe that their family is too close to squabble over money or "who gets what", but they miss the point. Even families with the best relationships can experience conflict because of poor estate planning.

To help surviving family members move forward with solidarity after a loss, here are some proven tips for reducing the possibility of family blowouts and arguments.

1. **Talk Openly with Your Family.** The biggest problem with leaving your family to finalize your estate is that some family members may not have a clear understanding of your own estate planning strategy.
2. **Think About Possible Issues Before You Consider an Estate Plan.** If you have a large estate, it is important to consider how the estate will be handled, and how you will use estate planning tools, even for those with large estates, to help minimize the time, pay, and other expenses that occur as the result of a death, and take care of any outstanding debts.
3. **Consider Life Insurance.** Life insurance can be a valuable tool in estate planning, and even for those with large estates, it can help to cover the costs of a death, and take care of any outstanding debts.
4. **Consider a Will.** A will is a legal document that outlines how you want your estate to be handled, and it can also have a large impact on your estate planning.
5. **Family Choose a Suitable Executor.** Choosing the right executor is crucial. If you wish to name your own executor, you might also want to consider someone who can keep emotions out of the picture.

Speak to a qualified financial advisor if you have questions or concerns about creating a proper estate plan for either yourself or someone else in your family.

Questions about Estate Planning?

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