

South Congregational Church

Everyone Needs An Estate Plan



“Giving Today for Tomorrow’s Mission”

**South Congregational Church,
UCC
27 Pleasant St
Concord NH 03301**

WHY HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN?

Planning for the disposition of our worldly affairs is an important part of being a faithful steward of all that God has entrusted to us. The wise and responsible use of our assets is a part of life that is intimately related to our Christian values. An essential part of financial planning is a prayerfully thought out will or other estate plan.

WHAT WILL AN ESTATE PLAN DO?

A carefully drafted estate plan will

- ❖ Distribute our assets according to our wishes
- ❖ Allow us to select our own executor or personal representative
- ❖ Provide for our loved ones, including dependent children or adults
- ❖ Designate guardians for minor children
- ❖ Provide continuing support for our Church and other charities
- ❖ Provide favorable tax treatment that frees more assets for beneficial distributions

WHO NEEDS AN ESTATE PLAN?

Everyone should have a will or an estate plan.

Some people think that they do not need a will or estate plan because they have little money.

Some people do not have an estate plan because they do not like to talk about death.

Some people think that they do not need an estate plan because they do not have children.

All of these people are mistaken. No matter how many assets they may have or who they are, all adults should have an estate plan that reflects their personal instructions for the disposition of their assets at the time of their death.

I ALREADY HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN; AM I ALL SET?

It is important to keep your will or estate plan up-to-date. Changes in tax laws or changes in our personal circumstances, such as marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, moving to a new state, the death or disability of a family member, warrant a review and update of your estate plan. Even absent a significant change of circumstances, financial advisors recommend that you have your estate plan reviewed at least every 5-7 years.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN?

When you die without a valid will or estate plan, your assets are distributed based upon a formula in a state statute. This formula:

- ❖ Does not recognize the differing needs of your heirs
- ❖ Does not include charitable institutions, such as your Church, that you may wish to support at the time of your death
- ❖ Will not necessarily provide support for other family members or friends who depend upon you

If you die without a valid estate plan, the court and others will appoint guardians for your minor children or dependent adults.

If you do not have a will or estate plan, the administration or probate of your estate can be more costly than necessary, which will reduce the amount of assets that do pass to your heirs.

HOW DO I CREATE AN ESTATE PLAN?

After prayerfully considering how you would like your remaining assets to be distributed, you should contact a lawyer or other qualified financial planner to help you create your estate plan. Wills and other estate planning documents should be prepared by an attorney who is licensed to practice in New Hampshire.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN?

If you have a current estate plan, it may be possible to adopt a simple amendment or codicil to amend your existing documents without the need to adopt a whole new set of documents.

WHAT DO I DO IF I DON'T KNOW ANY LAWYERS OR FINANCIAL ADVISORS?

South Church will maintain a list of lawyers and financial advisors who are members of the Church and who have indicated that they would be happy to help other members with their estate planning.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

You should discuss the expected cost of preparing an estate plan during your first meeting or phone conversation with a lawyer or financial advisor. The cost will vary depending upon the complexity of the plan, but most people will find that the cost of a simple will is very reasonable.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you need more information, or would like to talk to someone about Estate Planning and Planned Giving, please fill out this page and leave it at the Church Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

- I would like more information about Estate Planning and Planned Giving
- I've included South Church in my estate plans (and have not previously notified you)
- I would like to talk to someone about Estate Planning and Planned Giving

For information about making an estate plan or a planned gift, please see Rev. Jed Rardin or Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight, or call Ferd Prevost at 224-7863 or Peter Imse at 224-7335.

Church Phone: 603 224-2521

www.sochurch.org