

## *Passing on wealth*

Estate preservation is key to ensuring you leave the legacy you want

Many people plan for large expenses, like cars and houses. College funds often are set up early to make sure there's money for children's education. And setting aside money for retirement can help to work toward a comfortable post-work lifestyle. It makes sense to handle estate preservation planning the same way: as a regular, important part of your overall financial picture.

### **Maintaining control**

Consider one very simple fact about your estate: If you don't legally specify what you want done with your money and properties, the state will do it for you. If you want to divide up your assets in a particular way, leave a charitable gift to a nonprofit or other qualified organization, or otherwise control what happens when you're gone, estate planning is the way to go.

### **Long-term care**

Estate preservation planning doesn't just mean passing on wealth. It can also mean providing for loved ones. If your surviving spouse is likely to require elder care or any of your children have a physical or developmental disability, your estate can make sure necessary services are paid for or, if they're already being received, continue seamlessly. Likewise, if you have minor children, an estate trust allows you to arrange for the guardian of your choice.

### **Probate problems**

Without a trust or will, probate expenses may be higher. Probate — the court process of settling an estate — can be lengthy and expensive. Settlement costs can reduce the size of your estate... meaning less money is left to your heirs. Trust developed with the help of an attorney can avoid probate pitfalls.

Don't let your hard-earned money get whittled away by settlement costs and taxes. See to it that you have a hand in creating your own legacy. Talk to a financial planner today (and possibly an estate attorney) to set up your estate plan. The companies of [OneAmerica®](#) can help you [find a financial professional](#) near you to help you meet your financial goals. [Contact us today!](#)

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