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Avoiding Family Conflicts After a Death

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 they will be forced to make decisions without your guidance. This can lead to a family conflict, especially if you have a large estate. Talk to your family about your wishes and make sure they understand your intentions.
2. **Make Your Wishes Clear.** Don't just consider who you want to inherit your estate. Consider who you want to be the executor of your will. Make sure your wishes are clear and unambiguous.
3. **Consider Life Insurance.** Life insurance can be a useful estate planning tool, even for those with large estates. It can provide liquidity to pay estate taxes and other expenses that may occur at the time of death.
4. **Keep Your Will Up to Date.** This should go without saying, but always keep your will updated. If you have a large estate, you should consider having a professional draft your will.
5. **Finally, Choose a Suitable Executor.** Selecting the right executor is crucial. You want someone who is trustworthy, organized, and able to handle the responsibilities of the role.

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?

[Contact our office!](#) [6]

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