

# Learn More

- Find out more about estate planning essentials on Military OneSource at https:// www.militaryonesource. mil/-/estate-planning-theessentials.
- Review the "Estate Planning Tool Kit for Military & Family Members" from <a href="https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/">https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/</a> Sites/JAGC.nsf.
- Fill out a "Peace of Mind Plan" from <a href="https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/Sites/JAGC.nsf">https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/Sites/JAGC.nsf</a>.

# **An Introduction to Estate Planning**

# Overview

Estate planning is your way to make sure the care of your loved ones and the handling of your assets conform to your wishes if something happens to you. It allows you to determine who will make decisions on your behalf if you are incapacitated or otherwise unavailable. As part of your estate plan, you can also name who will care for your dependents and who will receive your property and wealth. Everyone should have some form of an estate plan, but it is especially important if you have underage children or a blended family. Unless you leave a plan, a court could decide the guardianship of your children and transfer of your assets.

Estate plans may include legal documents such as wills, living wills, powers of attorney for health care and finances, trusts and letters of instructions. Estate planning may also include actions such as retitling of assets like vehicles and homes, and distribution of retirement, life insurance and other funds.

Estate planning brings the peace of mind of knowing you've made arrangements for the people and things you value most, saving you and your loved ones time and money. It also contributes to your overall individual readiness.

# Completing Your Estate Plan

Estate planning complexity can vary widely depending on your individual situation. For many, the process is straightforward and can be accomplished with minimal outside assistance. However, those with particularly unique situations may consider retaining the services of expert advisors. Attorneys, financial planners, accountants, business advisors and insurance agents can be part of the team that helps you begin or update your estate plan. So reach out and begin or update yours today.

#### HERE ARE THE STEPS:

#### Before Your Meeting

- Understand your family and financial information.
- Determine what questions you have for each team member.
- Set expectations for your meeting.
- Determine your goals and priorities, and make sure they align with those of your spouse and loved ones.

### **Initial Meeting**

- Review existing documents.
- Understand your goals and priorities.
- Receive answers to your questions.

# Plan Design

- Design a plan an interactive process that best suits you and your family.
- Notify any loved ones of assigned responsibilities in your estate plan and ensure they consent to the duties requested.
- Work with your team to prepare documents.







In addition to these valuable resources, visit our website:

https://finred. usalearning.gov

and follow @DoDFINRED on:

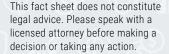














- Carefully review your documents before executing them.
- You now have your "playbook."

# **Implementation**

- Fund your estate plan.
- Make changes to your financial documents and arrangements to reflect your estate plan.
- Store your estate plan documents in a safe, secure location and make sure your trusted loved ones know where to find them in case of an emergency.

# Monitoring and Periodic Review

- Keep up with legal and life changes.
- Conduct periodic reviews and adjust your plan as necessary.

## Resources

Accredited personal financial managers or counselors at your nearest Family Center (<a href="https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/search?program-service=30/view-by=ALL">https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/search?program-service=30/view-by=ALL</a>) can help you look at your current financial status and establish goals for where you would like to be in the future as it pertains to your estate.

Your military service's Legal Assistance program will assist you in the planning, production and execution of your estate plan to ensure fulfilment of your personal goals for the transfer of your estate.

#### **Legal Assistance Services Locator:**

https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html

U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps:

https://www.jagcnet.army.mil

**U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps:** 

https://www.jag.navy.mil/

**U.S. Air Force Legal Assistance:** 

https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html

#### **Coast Guard Legal Assistance:**

https://www.uscg.mil/Resources/Legal/LMA/Legal\_Assistance.aspx

**Estate Planning Tool Kit for Military & Family Members:** 

https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/millife-guides/estate-planning/

#### Peace of Mind Plan:

https://usacac.army.mil/sites/default/files/documents/sja/Peace%20of%20Mind% 20Plan.pdf



