

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 have a different interpretation of your verbal estate planning strategy.
2. **Think About Possible Issues.** Don't just consider who your family members might want to be responsible for. Think about possible issues between your heirs and any life insurance policies that are bequeathed to them.
3. **Consider Your Family's Needs.** You may have family members who are young and need to be provided for, even if they have large sums of money. Consider their needs and how you can best provide for them.
4. **Consider Your Family's Values.** This is a good time to think about your family's values and how you can best provide for them.
5. **Family Choose a Suitable Executor.** Choosing the right executor is crucial. You should choose someone who is trustworthy and can 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?

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