

You may ask “Why should I plan my estate?”

1. There are numerous *non-tax* objectives to be met, such as:
 - a. Disposing of your assets in an appropriate and responsible manner in accordance with your wishes and goals to your family and loved ones.
 - b. Establishing trusts for minor, spendthrift, impecunious, and incapacitated beneficiaries.
 - c. Naming guardians, executors and trustees.
 - d. Making gifts to non-family members and charities.
 - e. Providing for your spouse in a second marriage when there are children of a prior marriage.
 - f. Disposing of business interests to one or more family members or loyal employees.

2. In addition to meeting your *non-tax* objectives a well drafted estate plan can potentially save the following *taxes*:
 - a. In an estate of \$2,000,000, a marital deduction will or trust and proper arrangement of assets will save *estate taxes* of *at least* \$435,000 at the death of the survivor of a husband and wife.
 - b. An irrevocable trust owning a \$500,000 life insurance policy will save an individual with at least \$1,000,000 of other assets, *at least* \$210,000 of *estate taxes*.
 - c. A properly designed generation skipping trust for a couple who needs to do such planning will save *at least* \$1,023,000 of *estate taxes* in the estates of the couple’s children.
 - d. By establishing a family partnership or limited liability company and by gifting *non-voting* interests to children and grandchildren, you may pass substantial assets to children and grandchildren free of any *gift, estate, and generation skipping* taxes.

3. One cautionary note: Whenever we plan the estates of a married couple, we represent the interests of both spouses. Although spouses’ interests are usually compatible, conflicts can arise. If conflicts do arise, we cannot advocate the interests of either spouse. You should be aware that because each of you is our client, matters that you tell us in confidence are not protected by attorney-client privilege from disclosure to the other of you. Accordingly, if you do not share the same objectives or if you wish to speak in confidence to your lawyer, you should consider having separate counsel.