



New and Old Ideas about Estate Planning

Estate Planning Issues	Old Ideas	New Ideas
Wills and Trusts	A will is sufficient because it outlines how your assets will be allocated	You also need a Health Care Proxy (HCP), Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA) and a plan
Taxes	Federal estate taxes will eat up your legacy	Federal estate taxes no longer apply to most couples and individuals
Probate	Probate should be avoided at any cost	Careful planning can remove the need for probate, but avoiding it may come at its own expense
Transitions	Not usually addressed	Joint accounts, beneficiary designations, DPOAs and HCPs
Long-Term Care	Not usually addressed	Long-Term Care Insurance (LTCI) or Medicaid offer protection
Outliving Assets	Shorter lives, lower costs, Social Security and pensions are sufficient	Longer lives, inflation, limited savings, fewer pensions raise the threat; Social Security covers less

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