

Free Resource

Planning for Peace of Mind Estate Planning During Illness or Later in Life



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Facing serious illness, aging, or the later stages of life brings a lot into focus. While it can be uncomfortable to think about, it's also the perfect time to take control of your future and ease the burden on your loved ones.

Updating your Will and Power of Attorney during these times isn't just about preparing for the end it's about protecting your dignity, wishes, and the people you care about most.

1. A Power of Attorney Gives You a Voice—Even If You Can't Speak

Serious illness or cognitive decline can make it difficult—or impossible—to make decisions for yourself. A Power of Attorney ensures that someone you trust can act on your behalf when it matters most.

What to do:

- Appoint someone you trust to manage financial matters and make medical decisions
- Include an advance care directive outlining your healthcare wishes
- Have conversations with your chosen attorney so they understand your values

2. Update Your Will While You Still Can

Mental capacity is essential for creating or amending a Will. If there's any concern about cognitive decline, it's critical to act early.

What to do:

- Review your Will for accuracy—are all the beneficiaries and instructions still right?
- Make changes while you're fully capable of making legal decisions
- Consult a professional to ensure the updates are legally valid

3. Include Funeral and End-of-Life Wishes

Many people find peace of mind in documenting how they want to be remembered. Whether it's a preference for cremation, a specific funeral request, or a simple note to your family, including these in your estate plan helps your loved ones make decisions during an emotional time.

What to do:

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- Add funeral and burial instructions to your Will or a letter of wishes
- Let your executor or family know where to find this information
- Consider pre-planning or setting aside funds to cover costs

4. Protect Vulnerable Family Members

If you're caring for a spouse, adult child, or other dependent, your estate plan should ensure they'll continue to be supported if you're no longer around.

What to do:

- Consider setting up a trust or naming a responsible financial guardian
- Clearly outline who will care for them and how funds should be used
- Work with a professional to ensure ongoing support structures are in place

5. It's Never Too Late—But Sooner Is Better

Estate planning in later life isn't about being pessimistic—it's about being prepared. It allows you to:

- Reduce stress for your loved ones
- Ensure your wishes are carried out
- Leave a legacy that reflects your values

Your Legacy, Your Way

Whether you're navigating a diagnosis, entering retirement, or simply thinking ahead, taking the time to update your Will and POA now is one of the most thoughtful things you can do.

- Appoint someone you trust
- Make your wishes known
- Protect the people who matter to you

We're here to help you every step of the way—with compassion, clarity, and care.

Book a consultation today and take a confident step toward peace of mind.

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