

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 not have a clear understanding of your own estate planning strategy.
2. **Make a Point to Discuss Your Wishes with Your Family.** Consider any family members who might not be as vocal as you are, but who are likely to be affected by your decisions. Discuss your wishes with them, and make sure they understand your intentions.
3. **Consider Life Insurance as a Means of Providing for Your Family.** Life insurance can be a powerful tool, even for those with large families. It can provide a source of income for your family, and it can also be used to pay for funeral expenses.
4. **Consider Your Own Needs.** If you are a single parent, you may need to consider how you will provide for your children if you die. If you are a married couple, you may need to consider how you will provide for your family if you die.
5. **Choose a Suitable Executor.** Selecting the right person to carry out your wishes is crucial. You might also want to consider someone who can keep your family out of the will.

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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