Practical Planning Tips for Clients Facing the End of Life

Presented by:

<u>Moderator</u>

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Panel Guests:

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Issues to Be Addressed

• COMMON ISSUES WITH END OF LIFE CLIENTS

- Personal
 - Timing of Common Issues
 - Loss of Control
 - Facing Mortality
 - End of Life Decision-Making
 - Family Input
- o Legal
 - Timing of Common Issues
 - Estate Planning
 - Durable Powers of Attorney
 - Gifting
 - Tax Considerations v. Personal Well-Being
 - Medicaid Issues
- o **Financial**
 - Timing of Common Issues
 - Investing for End of Life Concerns
 - Asset Protection v. Managing Wealth

• ETHICAL ISSUES

- Personal
 - Medical Directives
 - POLST
 - Death with Dignity
- o Legal
 - Powers of Attorney
 - Over-reaching
 - HIPAA
 - Determination of Capacity
 - Who Do We Represent?
 - Dealing with Client with Diminished Capacity
- o **Financial**
 - Dealing with Third Parties
 - Successor Trustees
 - Attorney-in-Fact
 - Investing Direction

• ADDRESSING A CLIENT'S CHANGING BEHAVIORS

- Personal
 - Signs to Watch for
- o Legal
 - Last Minute Will Changes
 - Capacity Issues
- o **Financial**
 - Radical Changes in Investment Approaches

• DEALING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS

• Personal

- Thinking About Grief and Loss
 - Accept Your Emotions
 - Express Your Feelings
 - Seeking Help
- Bill of Rights for Those in Grief
- What to Expect During Early Bereavement
- Coping Strategies Throughout Bereavement
- Remembering Those We Love
- Children and Grief
- o Legal
 - Probate v. Non-Probate
 - Steps Necessary to Begin the Process of Transferring Assets
 - Timelines
 - Disclaimers
 - Personal Property
 - Blended Families
 - Personal v. Business Property

o **Financial**

- Ownership of Assets
- Management of Assets Through Administration Period
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• STEPS TO TAKE TO PREVENT LITIGATION

• Personal

Pre-emptive Strategies

- Information to Family Members
- Open Dialog
- o Legal
 - Problem Areas
 - Blended Families
 - Joint Tenant Accounts
 - Personal Property
 - Dis-inherited "Heirs"
 - Interested Parties
 - Creditors
 - Valuation Issues
 - Advancements v. Loans
 - Unique Assets
 - Vacation Properties
 - Family Businesses
 - o Family Farms
 - Minor Beneficiaries
 - Standard Documents v. Customizable Documents
 - Authorization of Trust Distributions
 - o Discretion
 - o Accustomed Standard of Living
 - o Support/Maintenance
 - Remarriage
 - Minor Children from Prior or Subsequent Relationships
 - Education
 - o Health
 - Necessary and/or Cosmetic Procedures
 - Health Insurance Coverage
 - Minor Children from Prior or Subsequent Relationships
 - Trustee's Requirement to Look to Other Resources
 - Protection of Privacy for Beneficiaries
 - May a remainder beneficiary have access to "private information" to confirm the Trustee is properly utilizing his or her discretion)
 - Requiring a beneficiary to liquidate assets
 - Letter of Instruction
 - Tangible Personal Property

- Other Issues
- Burial Instructions
- Naming the Fiduciaries
 - Do they qualify under Washington law?
 - Is there friction between the beneficiaries?
 - Considerations for naming a professional fiduciary
 - Directed Trustee Provisions

o **Financial**

- Properly Identifying the Ownership of Assets
- Investing During the Administration Period
- Information to Necessary Parties
- Dealing with Fiduciaries