



About
Matthew Crider, J.D.

Matthew Crider formed [Crider Law PC](#) in 1999 so he could help individuals and business owners by providing creative solutions and be their trusted advisor and legal counselor. He serves his clients by listening closely to their goals, dreams and concerns and working with them to develop superior and comprehensive estate and asset protection plans. His estate planning practice focuses on preserving and growing wealth by providing comprehensive, highly personalized estate planning counsel to couples, families, individuals and businesses.

Estate planning needed at any age

By Matthew Crider, JD | Family Wealth Protection Attorney

Estate planning is just for old people, right?

Not necessarily, An article in [Forbes magazine](#) says that way too many people of all ages and various situations not only don't have an estate plan, but they may not even have drawn up the most basic document of all.

For example, a 2011 survey found that 64 percent of baby boomers don't have living wills. This is something that anyone over the age of 18 should have. Such documents will allow you in advance to decide on what type of care you will get should you become ill and incapable of making your own decisions at that time.

Even if you are young and broke you should have a living will.

In many states, parents don't have the authority to make health care decisions or manage money for children over the age of 18. So what if such young people were to get in a serious accident and be rendered disabled? His or her parents might have to go to court to get approval to make life and death or financial decisions on that person's behalf.

So even a young adult should have both a living will and a document assigning power of attorney allowing another person to make financial decisions on his or her behalf if necessary

What about a person who is single and employed but does not have much money? Does this person need an estate plan. Not necessarily, but there are documents that should be signed in case of an unexpected tragedy.

That person may have a 401(k) plan through work. If so, he or she should make sure to sign the beneficiary forms associated with those plans. If not, the state may decide who gets the money,

How about couples who are living together but not married? How will their property be divided if they break up or if one dies?

A will may be the best way to go so these matters are decided properly.

Young married couples may think they don't need a will until they have children. But a living will is a good idea for them too, particularly when you think of the case of Terry Schiavo, who fell into a coma at age 27. She hadn't signed a living will so her case dragged on for years before her husband was allowed to make the decision to pull her feeding tube.

And couples who do have children should either sign a will deciding who will become the guardian of those kids or separate guardianship documents should something happen to the parents.

These are just a few examples of situations where estate planning may be needed even though it may not be obvious right off the bat.

For advice, consult an experienced estate planning attorney.