

Orange County Estate Planning Attorney Details

Components of a California Estate Plan

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People often enter into [estate planning](#) without really knowing what it entails. While a [California estate planning attorney](#) will tailor your estate plan to meet your individual goals, there are certain documents that should always be included.

Your estate plan should include a final **will**; be sure this document is current and names all beneficiaries accurately. Make sure the will was signed before at least two witnesses — if possible, discuss with a [California estate planning lawyer](#) how to attach witnesses' signed affidavits to the will, which makes it self-probating in the event that the will is contested.

A [power of attorney](#) is also a staple of an estate plan. The person named as your agent will act on your behalf to execute the wishes set forth in your will. This person will be in charge of decisions after you pass, but could also be responsible for decisions if you become incapacitated for any length of time. It's important to consider who should fill this role with the help of an objective source like your California estate planning lawyer.

A [medical power of attorney](#) is another “must have” item for your estate plan. This person will make decisions for you if healthcare professionals need to consult with someone due to your incapacitation. Ensure that the person named to this role knows exactly what you want in terms of medical care — this person will be making decisions as your proxy, therefore his or her choices should mirror the choices you'd make for yourself.

For many, an estate plan will also include a trust. There are many kinds of trusts, so you'll want to talk to your [California estate planning attorney](#) about which kind of trust(s) best suit your needs.

The [Flanigan Law Group](#) provides Southern California residents with personal attention for estate planning, administration and litigation legal services. When disputes between families, arise, they are very successful in resolving legal estate issues quickly and efficiently while preserving financial and emotional resources. Contact the Flanigan Law Group at 949-450-0042.