

Rivkin Radler and Flushing Bank Present:

Wills, Trusts and Estates



Speaker:

Jeffrey S. Greener, Esq.
Partner, Rivkin Radler LLP

Jeffrey S. Greener helps clients protect, preserve, and pass on their wealth. For over 25 years, Jeff and his experienced partners and staff have drafted wills, trusts, health care directives and durable powers of attorney for their clients.

This program will cover the following:

- Estate Planning Myths & Misconceptions
- Wills vs. Trusts
- Probate Tips and Traps
- And much more!

Question and answer period to follow presentation.



Join Us

Thursday, June 28, 2016

5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Flushing Bank
661 Hillside Ave.
New Hyde Park, NY 11041**

**Seating is limited
Register early!**

Please respond by June 9 to:

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Estate Planning: What You Need to Know

*"... everything appears to promise that it will last;
but in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."*

-- Benjamin Franklin

What is Estate Planning?

Estate planning is part of one's overall financial plan. It is the process of intentionally transferring the assets we've built during our lifetimes to those we love at our deaths with the least amount of loss and delay.

Simply put, estate planning is:

- Distributing the right things
- To the right people
- At the right time
- For the right cost, and
- With the right assistance.

What Can Estate Planning Do For You?

Implementing an estate plan can give you at least two benefits:

Control - Most people don't realize that even if they haven't done any planning, they still have an estate plan; they have the "government's plan." Our state legislatures have decided that estate planning is too important to be left undone. Each state has adopted its own group of laws that dictate what is to happen to the assets of residents who die without a plan of their own.

The "government's plan" in your state is usually a "one size fits all" plan that wasn't designed with you or your family in mind. It wasn't written to fit your circumstances or to achieve your goals. It's a generic plan for everybody. When you create your own plan, you take back control so you can be sure the right things go to the right people, at the right time, at the right cost and with the right management.

Peace of Mind - When you are done with your planning, you will probably feel pretty good. It's easy for family members to fight over who should get what from a parent's estate.

Longstanding sibling rivalries and distrust often come to the surface when a parent's estate is to be distributed. No one wants his/her death to create family animosity or trigger a family feud.

You can design your estate plan to bring your family closer together instead of pushing it apart. When you've completed your estate planning, you know you will have done what you can to:

- Protect the financial security of your spouse/partner
- Promote good relationships between surviving family members
- Preserve family assets by reducing expenses and taxes
- Provide younger family members a good example for their own estate planning
- Show your family that you loved them

Every estate plan should include, at a minimum, a will or living trust, durable power of attorney, and health care proxy.

Wills and Living Trusts

A will or trust should be one of the main aspects of every estate plan, even if you don't have substantial assets. Wills help to ensure that property is passed according to an individual's wishes. In addition, these documents can help limit estate taxes or legal challenges. However, simply having a will and/or a trust isn't enough - the wording of the document is critically important. A Will is also necessary to appoint guardians for minor children.

Durable Power of Attorney

A durable power of attorney (POA) allows you to appoint an agent to act on your behalf in the event of your disability. Absent a power of attorney, a court may be left to decide what happens to your assets or who make personal decision making for you (if you are found to be mentally incompetent). The court's decision may not be what you wanted.

Health Care Proxy

In a health care proxy of attorney, you can designate another individual (typically a spouse or family member) to make important health care decisions for you in the event of incapacity.

Beneficiary Designations

Jointly owned assets and assets with a named beneficiary (ex. 401(k) or life insurance) pass to the named co-owner or named beneficiary even if your will or trust states otherwise. This is why it is important to review how all your assets are owned and to whom they will pass upon your death.

There is more to estate planning than deciding how to divvy up your assets when you die. It's also about making certain that your family members and other beneficiaries are provided for, and have access to, your assets upon your temporary or permanent incapacity.

A will is a great start, but many of the prepackaged will kits don't cover the full depth of estate planning. It's important to plan for all contingencies.



Jeffrey S. Greener

Partner

Jeffrey S. Greener helps clients protect, preserve, and pass on their wealth.

Jeff's practice encompasses estate and business succession planning, developing asset protection strategies, and assistance with elder law issues. Having considerable experience in special needs and long term care planning, Jeff also counsels clients on a broad range of legal and financial issues relating to Medicaid, eligibility for government benefits, retirement distributions, real property transfers, probate, and estate administration.

For over 25 years, Jeff has drafted wills, trusts, health care directives, and durable powers of attorney for his clients, as well as shareholder, partnership, and buy-sell agreements.

Jeff has extensive experience in estate administration, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) audits and other tax controversies, business formations and dissolutions, and corporate, partnership, and limited liability company creation and maintenance.

He also counsels many non-profit organizations, including public and private charities, and he is experienced in structuring start-ups, obtaining exemptions, and advising on compliance and governance issues.

A frequent lecturer on the topics of estate, retirement, and business planning, Jeff has served as a board member and as chairman of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. He currently is serving his second term as trustee of the Village of Kensington, New York.

Jeff has received a Martindale-Hubble AV Preeminent™ rating.



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BAR AFFILIATIONS

New York State Bar Association – Trusts & Estates, Real Estate and Elder Law Sections
Nassau County Bar Association
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

EDUCATION

George Washington University, Juris Doctor
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