



Women in Transition

Contributed by Sherri J. Holder

This year marks the last of my forties. Age has never bothered me much; I've always focused more on how I feel and subsequently what in my life influences my feelings. As I've transitioned from young mom, to career woman, to baseball mom, to empty nester, and now to grandmother, it's easy to see that one trigger of my emotional age is financial security and stability.

More to the point, having a strong sense of self-confidence has always been important to my overall wellbeing. At this stage in my life though, that means putting confidence in people I trust. Believe me, that's harder to do than it is to write because it

**WITHOUT A GOOD PLAN NOW,
YOU COULD BECOME DEPENDENT
ON OTHERS LATER**

immediately sparks a sensation of vulnerability that I've spent a lifetime trying to avoid. I like to be in control, and I am somewhat private about my personal matters. I suspect I am not alone in this which is why I am being so candid about my own thoughts and fears.

Women, especially, should consider their financial and estate planning health as they transition through the various stages of life. And whether your assets are generous or modest, whether you have children or not, you do, in fact, have an estate to plan for. The key to good planning is to first identify your goals and then understand your options. But a note of caution: Assuming you don't need guidance is short sighted

and may be counter intuitive to your independent nature. Meaning, without a good plan now, you could become dependent on others later or end up losing control completely.

What is financial and estate planning? It's creating a cohesive plan to meet your objectives during life, through disability, and at your death. Let's start with the directives. A Durable Financial Power of Attorney allows you to name an Agent that will act on your behalf in the event of your incapacity. This commonly discounted directive is perhaps the most important financial planning instrument you can create. An Advance Health Care Directive is equally important because it not only appoints a representative to make medical decisions on your behalf, but it provides your instructions for life-sustaining efforts. The unintended consequences of not having these directives in place range from family strife to unnecessary expenses and loss of assets.

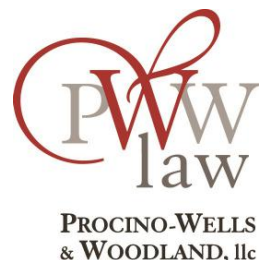
Creating a Will puts you in control of what happens to the assets in your individual name. A Will is only effective at your death and does not provide management control during disability or incapacity. Furthermore, depending upon your assets, a Will may

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require probate which is the court process of overseeing the instructions of the Will. For those reasons, it may be important to create a Revocable Living Trust. A trust provides for the management of your assets during incapacity and after death. A properly funded trust will also avoid the probate administrative process which provides privacy and expediency. Certain types of trusts can also offer protection to ensure your assets are available to provide the legacy you envisioned.

Way back when I landed my first real job, I remember meeting with the human resources person and filling out a beneficiary designation form for life insurance. I named my then infant daughter. The significance of this designation was lost on me as it is on many. I bring this up now to make the

point that beneficiary designations are important and should coordinate with an overall estate plan. Not to mention, minors cannot manage an inheritance until they are at least age 18, which raises a host of other questions and concerns. Also, to emphasize that these appointments are often made and then forgotten. As a best practice, beneficiary designations should be reviewed annually.

So how and where do you start without falling victim to being overwhelmed or in denial? Begin by identifying what you need to be financially stable today and in the future. Make a list of your assets and liabilities, review your existing beneficiary designations, and choose a team of advisors that specialize in financial and estate planning. Then get ready to feel empowered.

BELLA'S BRIEF

The Office from a Dog's Perspective



What's the difference between snowmen and snowwomen? Snowballs. Shew, makes me laugh every time. Maybe that's because we're a little short on snowballs around the office. Now I am dying! I hope no one reading this is sensitive to a bit of male objectification. After all, haven't snowmen enjoyed white privilege long enough? Sorry, I couldn't help myself. It's my liberated view, as a female, that we need to laugh more often and celebrate our differences. I'm just going to be me. I hope you do the same.

xxxo Bella 

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END
ALZHEIMER'S**

alzheimer's association

Resale to be held in Berlin in August 2019.
All proceeds to benefit the Alzheimer's Association.
Donors will receive an in-kind donation receipt.

TIME OUT — STAFF PROFILE

Marie T. Chin, Estate Planning Coordinator

ON THE CLOCK: Marie is a transplant to the Shore, having originally grown up outside of Annapolis, MD. She graduated from Salisbury University in 2011 with a degree in Environmental Studies and minors in Biology and Psychology. She spent the next few years working on a local organic farm, and then planning tours and events across the Shore and beyond. Most recently, she worked for PRMC's Weight Loss & Wellness Center doing everything from giving cooking demonstrations to managing the department's organic vegetable garden. Marie's desire to help others makes her a great fit for our company. You can find her as an Estate Planning Coordinator in the Berlin office.



OFF THE CLOCK: Marie and her husband Robby live in Salisbury with their Border Collie, Tux. She loves to cook and read, as well as spend time outdoors hiking, canoeing, camping, gardening, and at the river or beach.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 2 | Elder Law Workshop
5:30 - 7:00 pm |
| Apr | Harrison House of Snow Hill, Snow Hill, MD |
| 4 | Elder Law Workshop
10:30 am - 12:00 pm |
| Apr | Lewes Public Library, Lewes, DE |
| 9 | 2019 Elder Law Series (also on 5/14 & 6/11)
2 nd Tuesday of every month, 10:00 - 11:00 am |
| Apr | MAC Inc. Area on Aging, Salisbury, MD |
| 29 | Three Part Elder Law Series (also on 5/6 & 5/13)
1:00 - 2:30 pm |
| Apr | Manor House, Seaford, DE |
| 30 | Estate Planning Workshop
5:30 - 7:00 pm |
| Apr | Holiday Inn Express, Easton, MD |
| 16 | Veterans Planning Workshop
4:00 - 5:30 pm |
| May | John B. Parsons Community, Salisbury, MD |
| 25 | Elder Law Workshop
10:00 - 11:30 am |
| Jun | St. John's United Methodist Church, Seaford, DE |

LEGAL MUMBO JUMBO

Legal Language in Layman's Terms

JOINT TENANCY WITH RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP

A legal arrangement, generally made through a deed, between two or more people who own a property together. All owners have equal rights and obligations to the property. When an owner passes away, their interest transfers to the survivors.

A note from the attorneys...

Two members of our beloved team have recently experienced the loss of dear family members. Being equipped with knowledge about the process doesn't make the heartache any easier. We commend our entire team for the emotional and professional support they offer to each other and the families we serve, and our hearts are with those navigating the waters of loss at this time.

Michele, Owen & Lulu



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FF THE CLOCK

We would like to thank our featured referrer of the month:



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1001 West Locust Street
Seaford, Delaware 19973
302-629-4939

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