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### **WHY YOU NEED AN ESTATE PLAN**

1. Ensure that your property passes to your intended beneficiaries. If you die without a Will, the intestate laws will most likely divide your property in a way that you do not desire.
2. Take advantage of techniques to avoid unnecessary estate taxes.
3. Select the Executor, the person who controls the administration of your estate.
4. Recommend a Guardian to care for minor children in the event of the death of you and your spouse.
5. Control the timing of the receipt of inherited property by children or other beneficiaries. This often involves creating a trust to hold inherited property until a stated age.
6. Place restrictions on how property held in trust for children or other beneficiaries can be used.
7. Select a Trustee to manage any property held in trust for children or other beneficiaries.
8. Sign a Durable Power of Attorney to appoint someone to act as your Agent for your financial and property affairs in the event of your incapacity.
9. Sign a Health Care Power of Attorney and Advance Directive to appoint an Agent to make health care decisions in the event of your incapacity and to state your desires regarding the use of life-prolonging procedures.
10. Avoid probate where appropriate.
11. Coordinate beneficiary designations on life insurance, retirement accounts, annuities and other assets controlled by contractual rights with the dispositions made in your Will (and Revocable Living Trust, if appropriate).