

Avoiding Family Conflicts After a Death

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No one likes to think about their own mortality, but making a proper estate plan can help to lessen the grief of loved ones left behind. Alternately, without a written estate plan, surviving family members are often saddled with the responsibility of making estate decisions without a clear understanding of the deceased's wishes.

The effects of poor [estate planning](#) [1] can be far-reaching, but perhaps one of the most insidious effects is the conflict that can occur within families as a result. Many individuals believe that their family is too close to squabble over money or "who gets what", but they miss the point. Even families with the best relationships can experience conflict because of poor estate planning.

To help surviving family members move forward with solidarity after a loss, here are some proven tips for reducing the possibility of family blowouts and arguments.

1. **Talk Openly with Your Family.** The biggest problem with leaving your family to finalize your estate is that everyone will be guessing at what you would have decided with the understanding of how you would have planned it.
2. **Think About Your Legacy.** Do not just consider which family members might want specific bequests; take time to think about how you want your legacy to be passed on.
3. **Consider Insurance as a Planning Tool.** Insurance can be a very useful estate planning tool, even for those with large estates. Life insurance proceeds can be used to pay for funeral expenses, or to provide liquidity for a business.
4. **Keep Your Will Up to Date.** This should go without saying, but always keep your will updated and be sure it reflects your current wishes.
5. **Choose a Suitable Executor.** Selecting the right executor is crucial to fulfill your wishes completely, and you want to consider someone who can keep emotions out of the mix.

Speak to a qualified financial advisor if you have questions or concerns about creating a proper estate plan for either yourself or someone else in your family.

Questions about Estate Planning?

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[1] <https://lfpg.ca/estate-planning> [2] <https://lfpg.ca/your-legacy> [3] <https://lfpg.ca/permanent-life-insurance> [4] <https://lfpg.ca/wills> [5] <https://lfpg.ca/e-newsletter/2014/2014-06/article-3.htm> [6] <https://lfpg.ca/contact-us> [7] <https://advisornet.ca/> [8] <https://lfpg.ca/taxonomy/term/17> [9] <https://lfpg.ca/taxonomy/term/53>