

Explain Estate Planning Decisions to Beneficiaries

By: Hyatt and Weber

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Making Difficult Estate Planning Decisions

Some parents choose to leave assets to their children in equal share while other parents may provide unequal inheritances to their children for many reasons. For example, one child may have spent time and money caring for their aging parents while the child's siblings did not. The parent may choose to repay a child's caretaker services by leaving him or her larger share of the estate.

Talking to Beneficiaries

Children who don't receive equal shares of a parent's estate may contest the parents' will formally or there may simply be "infighting" among the siblings regarding the unequal distribution of a parent's estate. The best thing a parent can do is discuss his or her choices before he or she is disabled or perhaps deceased so any such issues can be addressed by family members before any beneficiaries have the opportunity to ask questions and understand the decisions being made. It's less likely that beneficiaries will be offended or hurt if their parents have explained their estate planning decisions in person.

Put it in Writing

If talking to your beneficiaries would be too difficult, or if you don't want beneficiaries to know beforehand how the estate will be divided, you can provide a detailed explanation of your intentions in writing. Sometimes this is called a "Letter of Wishes". The explanation can be as detailed as you think necessary to help your beneficiaries appreciate your intentions. It can be stored with your will to be read at your choosing before or after your death or incapacity.

Get Legal Help

Experienced Estate Planning Attorney Linda T. Cox can help you with all your estate planning needs. **Call Ms. Cox at Hyatt & Weber, P.A. today at 410-505-4553.**