

# Keep the Government and Lawsuits<sup>JD SUPRA</sup> Out of Happy Opportunists Away From Your Children's Inheritance

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**I**'ll bet your current estate plan leaves your assets to your children outright and unprotected by the time they are 35.

If that's the case, you've overlooked an incredibly valuable gift you can give your children (and the rest of your descendants for generations); a gift that only you can give them. And a gift that once you've died and left them their inheritance outright, is wasted and cannot be reclaimed.

## **Leave your kids a nest egg protected from lawsuits, divorce and estate taxes.**

Now, you can leave what you've worked so hard to build to your children in such a way that it stays protected so that if they ever get divorced, what you've worked your whole life to create, will not be lost to your child's future ex-spouse.

And, if your child is ever involved in a lawsuit, for example after a car accident, a business transaction go bad, or anything else, what you leave to your child will be protected.

The best part is that if your child has her own taxable estate when she dies your planning now will save your family 45 cents on every dollar handed down from one generation to the next.

## **Save your family 45 cents on every dollar at each generation.**

This adds up fast! For every million dollars you leave outright to your children, your grandchildren could receive only \$550,000 with \$450,000 going to the government ... unnecessarily.

So, if you want to know that everything you've worked so hard to create will stay in your family for generations to come and not be lost to outsiders, leaving your assets to your children protected instead of outright is the way to go.

## **But, how will my kids get to use what I leave to them?**

Here's the best part about leaving your assets to your children in a Lifetime Asset Protection Trust. Not only is what you leave protected, but your children control what you leave them when you decide they are ready.

After your death, the assets you leave behind will pass to your children (and your grandchildren, great-grandchildren and so on for successive generations) in a trust that is controlled by your child as the trustee of the trust. You get to decide when your child is mature enough to act as trustee.

As the trustee of the trust, your child decides how what you've left is invested and what to do with the trust assets. And, your child will even be able to determine the amount of control v. the amount asset protection he or she wants based on his or her specific circumstances.

## **Is this still important if I don't have much money?**

If you are only leaving your children a small amount of money, this is still incredibly valuable protection. Some might say, it's even more important because your family has less to lose to taxes, lawsuits and divorce at each

generation. And, the impact of such losses is much greater.

Consider the \$50,000 my dad left to me at his death. When I lost half of that in my divorce, there wasn't much left. Had my dad left this inheritance to me protected, I'd still have the whole amount today.

And, I could have used that \$50,000 to start a business or buy an investment property. I could have leveraged that \$50,000 into millions of dollars, all of which would have been protected from lawsuits, divorce and estate taxes.

## **A mere \$1,000 protected can become millions for the people you love.**

My grandmother put \$1,000 into a trust just like this for my benefit. She named me the investment trustee and I decided to invest that \$1,000 to start a business I intend to sell in the future for at least \$20,000,000. Because I don't own that business (it's owned by the trust my grandmother started for me), that \$20,000,000 can never be taken if I get divorced or if I'm sued and will never be subject to estate tax when I die, no matter how big my assets and how small the estate tax exemption. And, the best part is that it's protected for my children (and even great-grandchildren), while giving them the possibility of growing it even greater at each generation.

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