

## SURVEY SAYS HALF OF AMERICANS LACK BASIC ESTATE PLANS

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According to a recent Harris Interactive national survey, half of American adults do not have even the most basic estate plan in place to protect them and their assets.

The survey, detailed in a recent [article](#) in Forbes, showed:

*Of those surveyed, only 35% have a will directing who gets their assets and only 29% have a living will that states their views on end of life medical procedures. Not surprisingly, older Americans were more likely to have made some preparations: 77% of adults over 55 had signed at least one of the needed documents, compared with 24% of those under 35. There was no noticeable difference in planning between men and women, but Americans with more education were far more likely to have planned.*

*Even the oldest respondents were hardly well prepared. For example, only 48% of those 65 and older said they a financial power in place authorizing someone to make financial decisions for them if they were incapacitated and only 51% said they had a health care power in place. Perhaps spurred by hospital admissions personnel, who usually ask if admitted patients have a living will, 58% of those 65 and older reporting having this crucial document.*

*The survey delved into why so many Americans lack estate planning documents. In a sign that the recession is taking its toll on planning, 44% of those without any documents said the reason was because they were more focused on “essentials” like paying bills and buying groceries. Feeding the neglect, however, were misconceptions about the primary purpose of estate documents or what might happen if someone hasn’t planned.*

If you need more information about retirement plans, contact our [Jacksonville Florida estate planning law firm](#).