

# Protecting Feelings in Your Estate Plan

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## Understanding Asset Distribution

Sometimes families are torn apart following the death of a family member. Strong emotions can lead family members to fight with each other and long standing feelings of sibling rivalry can surface. Even parents who leave equal shares of the estate to their children can cause problems among siblings. One child may resent that another child borrowed money regularly from his parents and now he is receiving the same share of the estate as the child who never asked for anything. One child may resent that a sibling is getting a car while he gets a painting.

## Talk to Your Beneficiaries

Talking to your beneficiaries about your estate plan and the reasoning behind the asset allocation decisions may prevent any possible feelings of resentment later. Personal representatives and trustees should be given directions as well as some guidance in understanding the goals of the estate plan in order to defend the decisions in the estate planning documents.

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