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Charlotte, North Carolina Estates Lawyer Offers Advice on Talking to Your Parents about Their Estates

As a Charlotte estate planning lawyer, I know how common it is for each generation to avoid planning for their death. I have heard many adult children speak to me with tears in their eyes about how hard it has been to get mom and dad to even talk about it. Few people are eager to spend time thinking about their own mortality, including the parents that raised and cared for us. Unfortunately, not spending a little time with an estates lawyer can end up costing more than just a little time.

Let's face it, most people don't wake up in the morning and just by chance decide that they are going to call an attorney to do an estate plan. Many of my clients have come to me because either something has happened to them directly (they were appointed as an executor and knew first hand that they didn't want their family to have to deal with probate) or something happened indirectly (a family friend died leaving behind minor children and they didn't have a plan in place.)

Discussing estate planning with your parents can be difficult and uncomfortable for everyone. Neither of you wants to think about the fact that they will one day pass away. You may also be thinking that your parents are looking at you as the greedy, uncaring child. The way to approach this topic with parents may be to first help them understand that you have their best interest at heart and that you are coming from a place of compassion and love.

Keep two important things in mind:

1. Estate Planning Protects your Parent's Legacy

Explain to them that by planning their estate they are not only taking control but have a say in what happens. It is not the only way they'll be remembered, but it does give them the

opportunity to have a say in what becomes of the assets they worked so hard to acquire. An experienced estate planning lawyer will be able to show them more options than they likely ever realized were possible.

2. Estate Planning Protects the Beneficiaries

Once a parent always a parent! Just because you are grown and have a family of your own, doesn't mean that your parents don't still feel the need to "parent" you. Taking the proper steps to plan their estate means that they can lessen the burden on their children and grandchildren during what is sure to be a difficult time. Let your parents know that you want to follow through on their wishes, and by planning in advance, you can make sure that happens.

Acknowledging that our parents won't always be here is a difficult thing to do, but it is a necessary part of preparing for the future. By introducing the topic in terms of protecting their legacies and their beneficiaries, it is possible to turn the conversation into one of empowerment. Once the subject has been brought out into the open, it's best to take steps to speak with an experienced Charlotte, estates lawyer to assist in not only speaking with your parents as an unbiased third party, but to make certain a proper plan that reflects their wishes in put into place.