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Stuff Your Lawyer Wishes You Would Have Known

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TOP 6 Problems that didn't have to be problems

What kinds of problems can be avoided?

\$ Expensive problems \$

Fighting

Time wasted



What can't be avoided?

Risks may be minimized but not eliminated



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Where Your Family Is Our Focus

#1: Have a plan



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Plan B. You've always
got to have a Plan B.

Sylvester Stallone

quote fancy



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Who knows the plan?

Having some “documents” does not mean you have a “plan”.

The plan needs to be reviewed and updated, as needed.

There needs to be a Plan B...and a Plan C...and a Plan D...



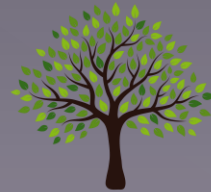
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Why Plan?

- Overall lower expense
 - Avoid creditors
- Family relationships preserved
- Eliminate Court requirements for notice
- Eliminate multiple probate administrations
- Cut out unwanted heirs
- Name proposed guardians
- Choose your own agents
- Deal with potential sticky situations beforehand



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#2: You can call the shots

I believe in aging gracefully.

-Tatjana Patitz-



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Someone will be in charge and someone will make the rules

You can choose the path where you make the rules and
choose who executes your plan.


If you don't, the state has a default plan for you.



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Plan ahead: It wasn't raining
when Noah built the ark.

Richard Cushing

quotefancy



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Learn your options and utilize them

The default rules are what will apply to you and your family if you don't choose an alternative option.



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#3: Learn about trusts as options

Trusts are made by people who know, for people who know.

Understand how trusts could be used in your particular situation.

There are many different types of trusts that can be utilized.

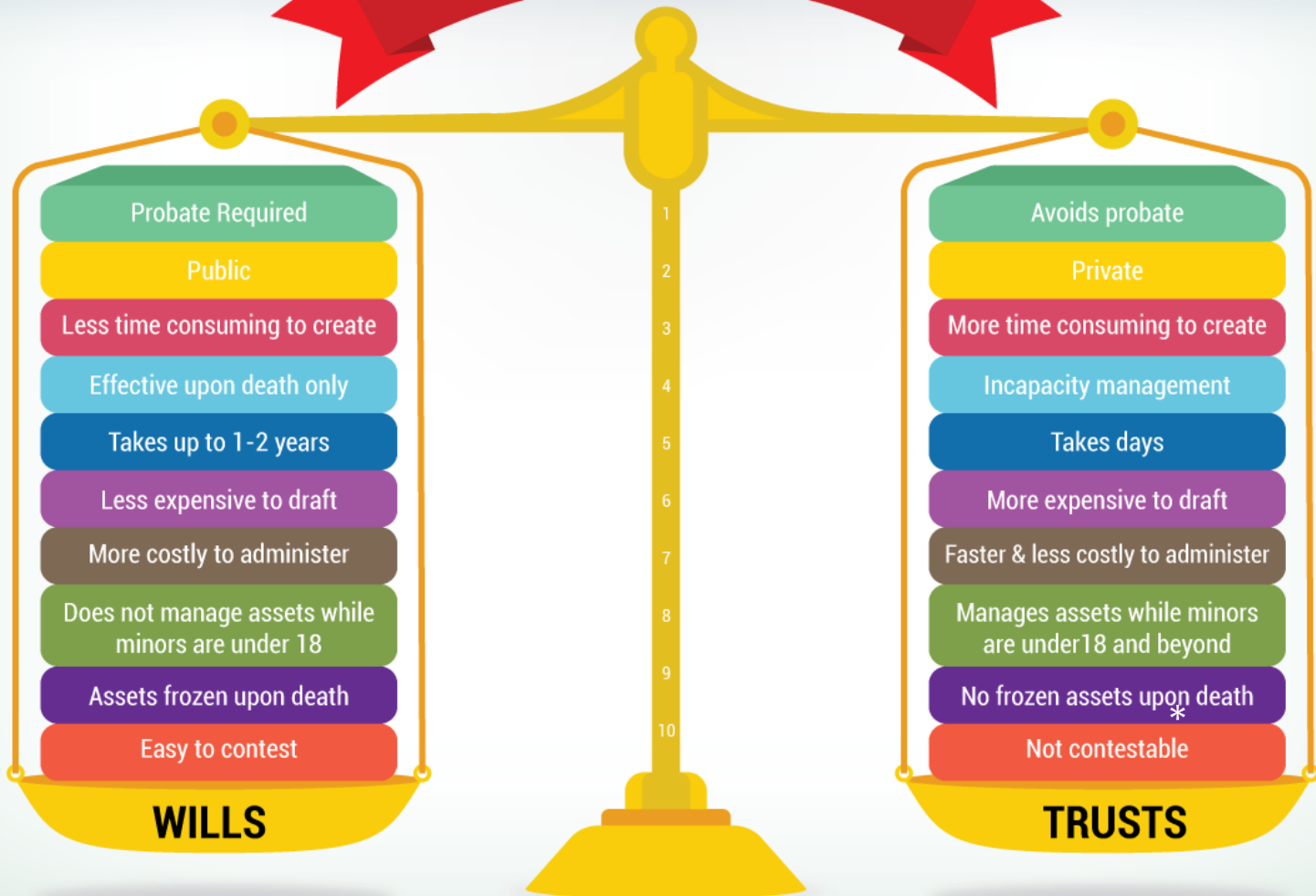


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WILLS VS LIVING TRUSTS



*Trusts are less likely to be contested

Probate Pitfalls

- Pre-promised personal property items may not go as promised
- Probate needed for real estate in each county & state
- Creditor Claims published in the newspaper
- Hiring a probate lawyer or do-it-yourself
- Setting up an estate account
- Paying probate fees
- Time to complete probate
- Invites disagreement
- Real estate deeded to all heirs

#4: Know your long-term care options

There are many options for aging in place or planning for long-term care in a facility.

Consider what you have and what you likely may need

Family support

Financial resources

Government benefits



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What is Life Care Planning?

A holistic, elder-centered approach to elder law that helps families navigate the journey through the long-term care maze, & addresses issues surrounding the elderly, those with long-term illnesses, & incapacity.



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Life Care Planning

- We manage risk and can plan for the various options as you age
- Assistance with finding, paying for, and getting good long-term care as it is needed
- Facility and hospital visits and check-ins
- Driving limits and options
- Addressing caregiver burnout
- Isolation and limited contact with family members or family members that live far away
- Addressing cognitive declines
- Planning that addresses needs ranging from independent living at home, living at home with assistance, retirement community living, assisted living, to nursing home care
- Navigating public benefit options such as Medicare, Medicaid, Veteran's compensation, Aid and Attendance, Respite Care Vouchers, and Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers

#5: Address your worries

Anything that stays on your mind or keeps you up at night should be addressed in your plan and documents.

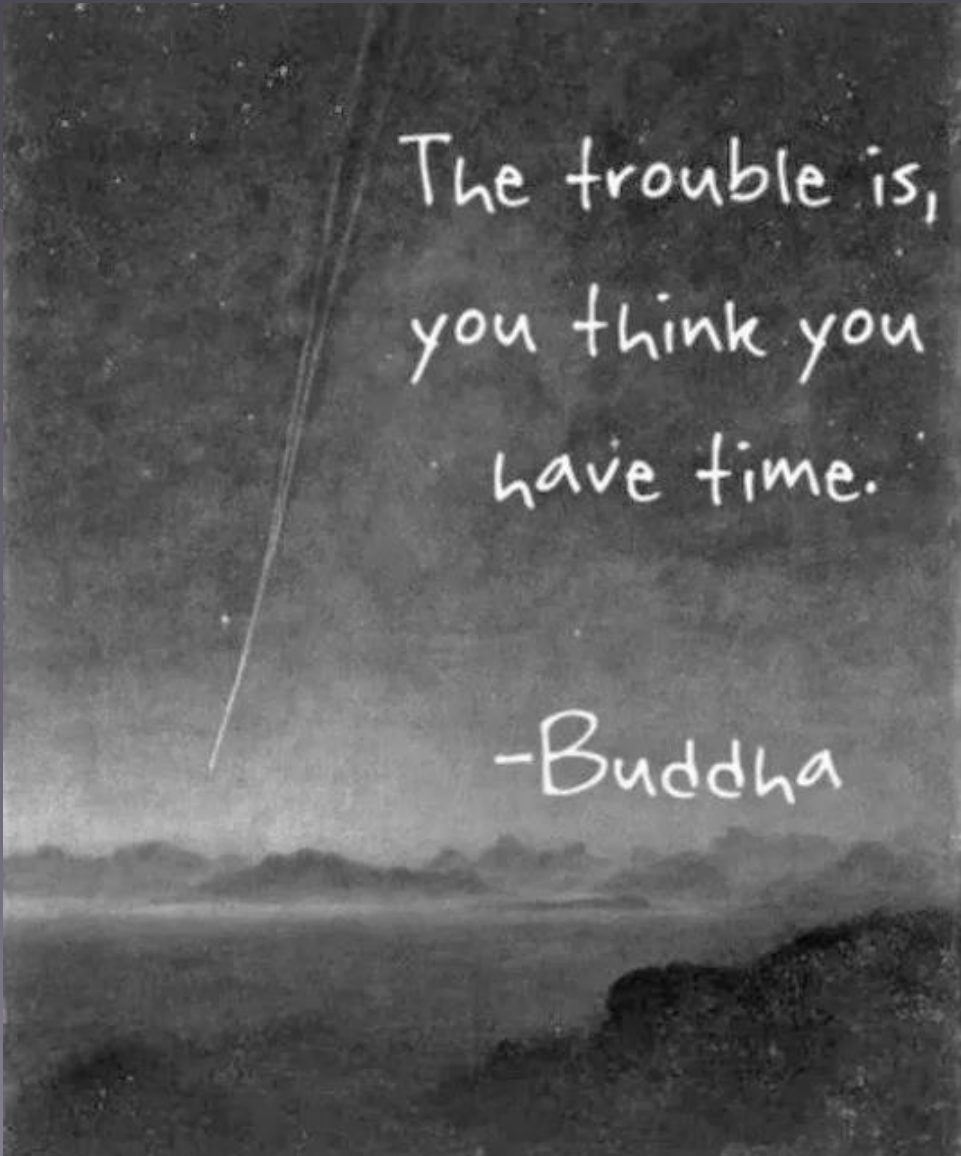
Worried about a child? Trying to make things fair? Not sure if the kids can handle it? Family members don't get along? Worrisome situations can be thoroughly addressed at the onset.



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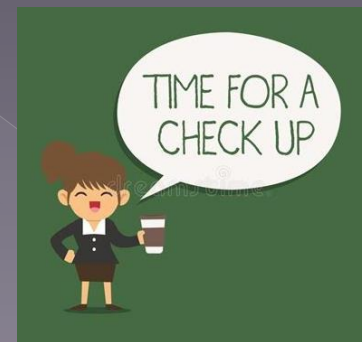
The trouble is,
you think you
have time.

-Buddha

#6: Get an estate planning check-up

Many issues can easily be caught and addressed if you get “check-ups” of your plan

Consider check-ups whenever there is a life-event:
Births, deaths, marriage, divorce, illness, early diagnosis, financial changes, agents aging



- #1: Have a plan**
- #2: You can call the shots**
- #3: Learn about trusts as options**
- #4: Know your long-term care options**
- #5: Address your worries**
- #6: Get an estate planning check-up**



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