

DO-IT-YOURSELF ESTATE PLANNING



WHAT IS A DIY ESTATE PLAN?

A DIY estate plan is something that you “do yourself” without the oversight of an estate planning attorney. DIY legal documents can be created in one of two ways:



Handwriting wishes informally on a piece of paper or downloads a “fill in the blank” document that they got on the internet.



Using an online document creator, which generates the document after the person answers a series of questions.

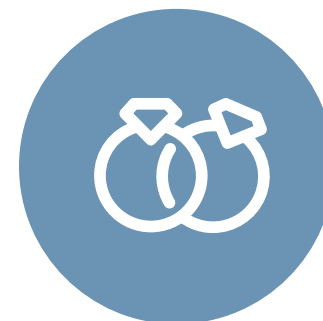
3 COMMON MISTAKES MADE WITH DIY ESTATE PLANS



They may not conform to state law., especially if you move to a new state or jurisdiction



They could contain inaccurate, incomplete, or contradictory information.



They may not account for life changes, like new children, grandchildren, marriages, or divorce.

WHAT IF YOUR DIY ESTATE PLAN IS NOT VALID?



Your property and money will go to heirs specified by state law—who may not be the people you would have chosen.



An unfunded trust will be ineffective.



Banks may not accept a generic power of attorney you found on the internet.