

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A FAMILY MEETING?

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*According to Stephen Covey, author of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, “Most families are managed on the basis of crisis, moods, quick fixes, and instant gratification – not on sound principles. Symptoms surface whenever stress and pressure mount: people become cynical, critical, or silent or they start yelling and overreacting.”*

One of the advantages of serving clients since the late 70’s is the opportunity to deal with up to three generations of a family at any one time. Given the complexities of intergenerational planning, we are sometimes called upon to help execute and communicate the wishes of our clients. We realize that sometimes children are not informed of their parents’ wishes – some people feel it’s not important or it’s relegated to the “I’ll get to it later” list.

We suggest that you not wait to let your wishes be known. Your children (or close kin) should know: where the important documents are filed, how money and valuable objects should be managed, who has power of attorney and your wishes if you were to become incapacitated — just to name a few. If you are not comfortable with a face to face conversation with family members at least commit your wishes to paper.

A topic of importance that is often never discussed until it’s too late is eldercare. If one day you were no longer able to care for yourself where would you want to live? What can you afford? Can your children afford your eldercare expenses if you can’t? Who is responsible for making a transition happen? These are just a few questions that you and your children should have answers to *before* something happens.

If you are prepared to sit down with your family to start talking about your future wishes we stand ready to help. Our conference rooms are available for clients to host a meeting of extended family, and we can act as an active participant if you so desire. Your other professionals, such as your attorney or accountant, are also welcome to be involved in the meeting.

Take time to consider your legacy and communicate your wishes to your loved ones. Should you choose, we are here to help.



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