Legacy Ministry Estate Planning

Planning Your Legacy

We are very pleased that you are taking steps to protect those you love through an estate plan. Through good planning, a wonderful chapter in the book of your life can be completed. With proper planning, the legacy of love and care that you leave for your family and friends can be encouraging and inspiring.

Estate Planning

As members of Portland Christian Center, many of the blessings we enjoy today are the products of dedication on the part of those before us who were not content with the status quo. Instead, they were committed to leaving future generations a rich inheritance on which to build. We, too, have the opportunity to leave a legacy to our church through estate planning.

As Christians, our interest in estate planning goes beyond efforts to save or reduce taxes, although a worthy objective. An important part of our Christian heritage in America is that we are provided opportunities for making gifts to charitable causes. Your gift through careful estate planning can continue to support our beloved church and other Christian causes even after death. There are several Legacy giving arrangements that will help you maximize your personal benefits and accomplish your charitable giving goals. Each legacy giving arrangement can be structured to suit your individual, unique situation.

As you prayerfully consider your financial estate, we believe that God may very well place it in your heart to include a gift to Portland Christian Center. And you can rest assured there is no better ground into which you could sow and leave a lasting legacy of soul-winning than with this local ministry.

Remember, you are leaving an eternal legacy for future generations. Your faithful support is changing lives, impacting our community, and transforming lives worldwide.

What are the benefits of an estate plan?

Peace – An estate plan should give you peace of mind knowing that important, and sometimes difficult decisions have been made to care for you and your loved ones.

Provision – An estate plan is designed to help you provide for both you and your family. With a good estate plan, you can give loved ones the property you have acquired in the right way, at the right time, and at a reduced cost.

Protection – An estate plan will protect you in your senior years. It may be important to designate a specific person to manage your property, help doctors and medical staff with important decisions, and make certain that you are receiving the best possible care.

Estate Planning Process

Step 1: Set the priorities of your estate plan. The first step in estate planning is to create a strategy. You want to place the overall process in perspective and set the goals and objectives you wish to accomplish.

- The first priority is…what is the best plan of distribution for my estate?
- The second priority is to understand that…people are more important than dollars.
  - Planning for the distribution of household goods and personal effects.
  - Careful consideration of who should be the personal representative (will) or Successor Trustee (living trust) of the estate.
  - Proper planning of guardianship and trusts for minor children.
- The third priority is…passing property to beneficiaries with minimal shrinkage and delay. In other words, do everything possible to reduce costs and delays. Conserve the maximum amount of your property for your beneficiaries.

Step 2: Become familiar with the estate planning tools available. Examples are –

- Wills
- Durable Power of Attorney for finances
- Healthcare directives
- Living Trusts
- Custom plan for business, investments, or special needs child.
- IRA, 401 (k), or other retirement plan.
- Life insurance
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Charitable Endowments

Step 3: Gather the necessary data for your estate planning process. **Please note**: Estate Inventory Form noted below. You will need to provide all of the pertinent information concerning your estate.

Step 4: Seek competent counsel for technical assistance and drafting of legal instruments.

Estate Planning Guide

We are pleased to offer an Estate Inventory Form for you. Contact Ron Stokes, Legacy Services Minister, at 503-810-4472 or rstokes@outlook.com to obtain one. This guide can be a valuable tool to help you gather information and think through how you will provide for your loved ones with your estate plan.

Once you have reviewed the form, Ron Stokes would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Please contact him to set up an in-person meeting or to talk by phone. This form is offered to you as an educational service. While we attempt to provide helpful estate and financial background, we are not able to offer specific legal advice on your own personal situation. Because you may have special needs, we know that you will want to contact your own attorney. He or she will be your independent advisor and will have an obligation of trust and confidence to you. With the advice of your independent attorney, you may have a customized estate plan that truly fulfills your unique family, healthcare, estate, and planning circumstances.

If you do not have an estate planning attorney, we may be able to make a recommendation. Your attorney will use the information you provide in this form to draft your estate plan. A typical plan could include a will or trust, powers of attorney, and healthcare documents. Your attorney will assist you in finalizing your estate plan.

It is our pleasure to help you begin on this journey towards planning for your future.