



Four Steps to Getting Started on Your Estate Plan

No matter where you are in life, you can take certain steps to help ensure your financial and nonfinancial goals are realized during life and after passing. To help with this process, we recommend consulting an estate planning attorney. The following are some potential steps you and your estate planning attorney can take to get started on your plan.

	What You Can Do:	What an Attorney Can Do:
1. Take Inventory	Make a list of all of your debts and assets, including how each asset is presently titled and who the named beneficiaries are of each asset, if any.	Use your inventory to better assess your situation and guide you as to the appropriate changes you might need to make to current title and beneficiary designations, including steps necessary to fund your trust, if applicable.
2. Create a Plan	<p>Think about your needs, where you want your assets to go and prepare to meet with an estate planning attorney by having the inventory from step one ready to discuss.</p> <p>Establish your goals and think through the fiduciaries you want serving in the following roles upon your death or incapacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guardians - Beneficiaries - Agents under powers of attorney - Executors - Trustees/successor trustees 	<p>Educate you on the powers necessary for each fiduciary to carry out your wishes upon incapacity and/or death.</p> <p>Develop a plan to manage the distribution of your assets according to your goals, including whether a trust or other estate planning vehicle may be appropriate as part of your plan.</p> <p>Advise you on tax-saving strategies and connect you with a qualified tax professional if necessary to accomplish your goals.</p>
3. Take Action	<p>Contact an estate planning attorney licensed in your state of residence to implement your plan.</p> <p>Title assets into the appropriate form of ownership, and if applicable, transfer assets that you and your attorney have identified to be placed into your trust.</p> <p>Check and update beneficiary designations on all assets and accounts.</p>	<p>Draft your will and any other directives necessary to reinforce your distribution wishes.</p> <p>Draft incapacity planning documents such as financial and medical powers of attorney, living wills and/or guardianship paperwork.</p>
4. Update Regularly	<p>Review and update your beneficiary designations as your goals change.</p> <p>Review powers of attorney and other estate planning documents every five years or as life events or changes in law dictate.</p>	<p>Advise you as to whether the changes in your family and/or financial situation prompt changes to your documents.</p> <p>Draft revisions to bring your documents up-to-date and help ensure acceptance at financial institutions and/or medical facilities.</p>



Four Steps to Getting Started on Your Estate Plan (Continued)

How Much Does Estate Planning Cost?

The cost of your estate plan largely depends on the specific documents to be prepared, the complexity of each document and the experience of the attorney. While some attorneys will charge a flat fee, others will charge an hourly rate. On average, an experienced attorney may charge \$250–\$450 per hour, with the total fees ranging from a minimum of \$750–\$1,750, to upwards of \$5,000 or more.* Any tasks that you handle yourself, such as retitling accounts or naming beneficiaries, will take time but involve less out-of-pocket expense.

Questions to Ask When Choosing an Estate Planning Attorney

It is important to interview estate planning attorneys you're considering to help ensure you feel comfortable with the professional you select. Below are some questions to consider asking the attorneys you interview:

- How long have you practiced estate planning?
- How much of your practice is devoted to estate planning?
- Do you offer a free initial consultation to discuss my needs?
- How will you communicate with me?
- Will you be my point of contact or will someone else, such as a paralegal?
- Do you bill on an hourly basis or charge a flat fee?

If you don't already have an attorney who can handle your estate planning, Fisher Investments can provide referrals for attorneys licensed to practice in your state. You can also visit your state bar website to verify that the attorney you choose to work with is licensed and in good standing to practice law in your state.

What Fisher Investments Can Do for You

After working with your attorney to build and implement your estate plan, Fisher Investments can continue to provide support in the following ways:

- Help arrange to retitle your brokerage account(s) to fit your plan.
- Assist in obtaining the paperwork to update beneficiary designations and/or add powers of attorney on your Fisher-managed accounts.
- Help facilitate the opening of accounts for various types of trusts and accounts for businesses, charities, minors and other estate planning vehicles.
- Upon completion of the proper paperwork, assist you in consolidating your retirement and brokerage assets to help make your estate easier to manage now and in the future.

**Based on averages seen for referred clients and industry averages.*

Nothing herein constitutes legal, tax or investment advice. The foregoing constitutes the general views of Fisher Investments and should not be regarded as personalized advice. Please seek the guidance of a CPA when making tax planning decisions. You should consult with a lawyer qualified in your state before implementing any changes to your estate plan. Fisher Investments cannot sell you an insurance policy. If you want to purchase an insurance policy, you should contact a licensed insurance provider in your state. Investing in securities involves a risk of loss.