

Carmel-Quintero Financial

Planning Your Financial Future

What You Can Do with a Will

Carmel-Quintero Financial Services
26600 Detroit Road
Suite 130
Westlake, OH 44145
440-471-8441
Todd.Carmel@RaymondJames.com



A will is often the cornerstone of an estate plan. Here are five things you can do with a will.

Distribute property as you wish

Wills enable you to leave your property at your death to a surviving spouse, a child, other relatives, friends, a trust, a charity, or anyone you choose. There are some limits, however, on how you can distribute property using a will. For instance, your spouse may have certain rights with respect to your property, regardless of the provisions of your will.

Transfers through your will take the form of specific bequests (e.g., an heirloom, jewelry, furniture, or cash), general bequests (e.g., a percentage of your property), or a residuary bequest of what's left after your other transfers. It is generally a good practice to name backup beneficiaries just in case they are needed.

Note that certain property is not transferred by a will. For example, property you hold in joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety passes to the surviving joint owner(s) at your death. Also, certain property in which you have already named a beneficiary passes to the beneficiary (e.g., life insurance, pension plans, IRAs).

Nominate a guardian for your minor children

In many states, a will is your only means of stating who you want to act as legal guardian for your minor children if you die. You can name a personal guardian, who takes personal custody of the children, and a property guardian, who manages the children's assets. This can be the same person or different people. The probate court has final approval, but courts will usually approve your choice of guardian unless there are compelling reasons not to.

Nominate an executor

A will allows you to designate a person as your executor to act as your legal representative after your death. An executor carries out many estate settlement tasks, including locating your

will, collecting your assets, paying legitimate creditor claims, paying any taxes owed by your estate, and distributing any remaining assets to your beneficiaries. As with naming a guardian, the probate court has final approval but will usually approve whomever you nominate.

Specify how to pay estate taxes and other expenses

The way in which estate taxes and other expenses are divided among your heirs is generally determined by state law unless you direct otherwise in your will. To ensure that the specific bequests you make to your beneficiaries are not reduced by taxes and other expenses, you can provide in your will that these costs be paid from your residuary estate. Or, you can specify which assets should be used or sold to pay these costs.

Create a testamentary trust or fund a living trust

You can create a trust in your will, known as a testamentary trust, that comes into being when your will is probated. Your will sets out the terms of the trust, such as who the trustee is, who the beneficiaries are, how the trust is funded, how the distributions should be made, and when the trust terminates. This can be especially important if you have a spouse or minor children who are unable to manage assets or property themselves.

A living trust is a trust that you create during your lifetime. If you have a living trust, your will can transfer any assets that were not transferred to the trust while you were alive. This is known as a pourover will because the will "pours over" your estate to your living trust.

Caveat

Generally, a will is a written document that must be executed with appropriate formalities. These may include, for example, signing the document in front of at least two witnesses. Though it is not a legal requirement, a will should generally be drafted by an attorney.

There may be costs or expenses involved with the creation of a will or trust, the probate of a will, and the operation of a trust.

December 2017

What Is Cyber Insurance and Should Your Business Have It?

Infographic: Financial Tips for Young Adults

Cartoon: 21st Century Shopping Strategy

What financial resolutions should I consider making as I look ahead to 2018?



Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia have laws requiring private or governmental entities to notify individuals of security breaches of personally identifiable information. In addition, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires HIPAA-covered entities and their business associates to provide notification following a breach of unsecured protected health information.

What Is Cyber Insurance and Should Your Business Have It?

Does your company use electronic data? Does it store or communicate potentially sensitive information about customers, employees, or competitors? If so, then a breach of that data could cost your company plenty. Some well-known organizations have experienced data breaches, including WalMart, JP Morgan Chase, Yahoo, eBay, Target, the IRS, and, more recently, Equifax. Unfortunately, just about any size company or organization that retains personal information can be hit with a cyber attack. One way to transfer some of the risk and costs associated with a data breach or network security failure is through cyber insurance.

What is cyber insurance?

Cyber insurance provides protection against potential costs and financial losses resulting from data breaches caused by cyber attacks, viruses, and other threats. It also helps cover third-party lawsuits filed against your company resulting from data breaches or your failure to adequately protect sensitive or confidential information.

What does cyber insurance cover?

While individual policies may differ, cyber insurance can help cover:

- **Loss of data:** Cyber insurance may help cover the cost of restoring or reconstructing data that was lost, stolen, or damaged.
- **Losses from data breach or security failure:** Cyber insurance assists in covering some of the costs of investigating how and where the breach occurred; expenses associated with regulatory fines; legal costs of defending against lawsuits and settlement of claims brought by victims whose information was inappropriately accessed, shared, or lost; expenses related to notifying victims of the data breach, such as customers and employees.
- **Costs associated with extortion or ransom demands:** That's right, often a cyber criminal will demand a ransom or try to extort money from your company in exchange for your data. Cyber insurance covers some of the costs of paying the ransom for the data or for the restitution to victims whose information was captured.
- **Losses from business interruption:** If your company must close while the data breach is investigated and resolved, cyber insurance can help offset the ordinary costs and expenses of your business during its down time.

Who needs cyber insurance?

Your company or organization may be a candidate for cyber insurance if it does any of the following:

- Sends or receives documents electronically
- Communicates with customers or third parties via email, text messages, or social media
- Stores third-party information on a computer network that may be considered sensitive or private, such as an individual's identity, tax information, income, address, Social Security and/or credit card numbers
- Stores confidential company information or data (e.g., tax documents, sales or marketing figures or projections, trade secrets) on a computer network
- Advertises company services or products via a website or social media

Aren't these risks covered by business insurance?

Unfortunately, most of the risks and losses resulting from data breaches or losses are not covered by standard commercial general liability insurance. In fact, many policies contain a specific electronic data exclusion. In addition, loss or damage to electronic data isn't considered property damage under a business policy, so coverage wouldn't apply.

Questions to think about

Cyber insurance has policy exclusions, terms, and conditions. When thinking about the purchase of cyber insurance, here are some questions to consider:

- What specific risks are covered, and what risks are not covered?
- What deductibles or coverage limits apply?
- Will the insurer require your company to undergo a security risk review?
- Are there security controls your company can adopt that will decrease the premium?
- Will the insurer identify security risks and offer alternatives to minimize or eliminate those risks?

Plan ahead

Cyber attacks and loss of data can be devastating to a business. Plan ahead before a cyber attack occurs. Evaluate your business and determine areas of particular vulnerability. Then create cybersecurity policies and procedures for company employees to follow. Finally, consider the purchase of cyber insurance to help cover at least some of the risks associated with a cyber attack.

Infographic: Financial Tips for Young Adults

6 Steps for Young Adults to Build a Financial Foundation



1 Create a budget

Subtract your monthly living expenses (e.g., rent, food, utilities) and loan payments (e.g., student and/or auto loans) from your monthly income to see how much you'll have left over each month to save or invest.



2 Build an emergency fund

Stash away a small amount from each paycheck until you have a few thousand dollars built up that you can access in the event of a financial emergency.

3 Pay your bills on time

Automate payments with online bill pay. If you run into financial difficulty, be proactive and contact your lender before you miss a payment.



4 Use credit wisely

Avoid racking up unnecessary credit card debt and pay off your bill in full each month. If you can't, don't use your credit card.

5 Contribute to a Roth IRA and/or workplace 401(k)

Time is your friend. Start saving for retirement now, and your older self will thank you. Consider starting with 3% of your pay and increase from there.



6 Live within your means

Forget about what others are doing and set your own financial rules and goals. Live your best life by striving to live within (or below) your means.



Carmel-Quintero Financial Services

26600 Detroit Road
Suite 130
Westlake, OH 44145
440-471-8441
Todd.Carmel@RaymondJames.com

This information, developed by an independent third party, has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. does not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete. This information is not a complete summary or statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision and does not constitute a recommendation. The information contained in this report does not purport to be a complete description of the securities, markets, or developments referred to in this material. This information is not intended as a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any security referred to herein. Investments mentioned may not be suitable for all investors. The material is general in nature. Past performance may not be indicative of future results. Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. does not provide advice on tax, legal or mortgage issues. These matters should be discussed with the appropriate professional.

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC, an independent broker/dealer, and are not insured by FDIC, NCUA or any other government agency, are not deposits or obligations of the financial institution, are not guaranteed by the financial institution, and are subject to risks, including the possible loss of principal.



©2017 BROADRIDGE INVESTOR COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS, INC.



A new year is right around the corner, bringing with it a fresh start for you and your finances. What will you do this year to help improve your financial situation?

Evaluate your

savings goals. The beginning of the year is a great time to examine your overall financial plan. Maybe you want to buy a new vehicle this year or save money toward a Caribbean cruise next year. Perhaps you want to focus less on material items and more on long-term goals, such as your retirement savings. Regardless of what you are setting money aside for, make sure you come up with a realistic savings plan that will help you achieve your goals and avoid the risk of significant loss.

Pay down debt. Whether you owe money on your credit cards or have student loan payments to make, the start of a new year is a good time to develop a strategy to reduce your overall level of debt. Reducing your debt can help create opportunities to contribute toward other goals throughout the year. But unless you can definitely afford it, don't plan to pay off all

your debts in one fell swoop. Set a smaller goal that you'll be more likely to achieve over the course of the year.

Automate as much as you can. Your plan to pay down debt can be accomplished more easily if you automate your bill paying, saving, and investing. Most banks, credit card issuers, retirement plan providers, and investment companies offer services that make payments automatic — allowing you to worry less about payment dates. The best part is that it might only take a few taps on your smartphone to make these processes automatic.

Think about organizing your financial documents. If your overall financial situation is already in good shape for the new year, consider taking time now to clear out and organize your financial records. Do you have important documents, such as your tax returns or passport, in a safe place? Are you holding on to records that you no longer need? Organizing your financial records now can save you time and frustration later if you need to locate a particular document.