

Will planning review

Plan for your future in the present and save

Thinking about preparing your will?

Now is a good time to start. Starting early can prove to be financially beneficial, as well as being an efficient way to ensure that your wishes for the future will be carried out with the least amount of stress on your loved ones.

Everyone should have a will. The more assets you have, the more creative planning opportunities there are. Of course every individual's will is different, but with over 60 years experience serving entrepreneurs or high net worth individuals just like you, our level of expertise at Grant Thornton LLP allows us to plan for your unique asset mix and finances effectively.

Tax minimization now, and in the future, is a great advantage in preparing your will early. With tax laws and other applicable legislation changing, our team will ensure your life's work will be passed on efficiently with the minimum tax payable. Here are two examples of how early planning can save you money:

Setting up a testamentary trust

In many cases, it can be extremely beneficial to provide for one or more testamentary trusts in your will. One of the most significant benefits of such trusts is the ability to provide for ongoing income splitting opportunities after your death. For example, assuming your spouse will be in the top tax bracket at the

time of your death, every additional dollar she or he has to report as income will be taxed at the top marginal rate. A testamentary trust, on the other hand, is taxed as a separate individual and is subject to the lower graduated rates of tax. To take advantage of this opportunity, testamentary trusts must be established in your will and cannot be set up after your death.

Setting up a testamentary trust

If you intend to include substantial donations to a charity (or charities) in your will, other planned giving strategies can be more beneficial. For example, rather than waiting until your death, you might want to establish an ongoing gifting strategy while you are alive. This planning can have several benefits.

As well as receiving the tax benefits from the donation while you are still alive, the value of your estate - and, as a consequence, income taxes and estate administration fees - can be reduced by making the donations during your lifetime. The benefit to be realized by the tax credits for charitable donations made in a will is limited by your net income in the year of death and the preceding year. Therefore, if substantial gifts are planned, your estate may not be able to realize a tax credit for the entire amount of the gift and tax benefits will be lost.

Of course, planning your will early also reduces the chances of conflict among those you care about most. To get your wealth transition plan off the ground, our team will work with you to:

- Develop and clarify your wealth transition objectives;
- Identify central issues that may cause challenges;
- Provide support to draft and structure your will according to your requirements;
- Grant access to our tax specialists to ensure that your will reflects the maximum tax savings based on your financial position.

Simply put, working with a Grant Thornton adviser to develop a well structured plan will help ensure that your business continues to thrive after you are no longer involved in its daily activities, maximize your tax savings, and make the transition of your wealth a smooth and painless process for all those involved.

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