Cowen
TAX ADVISORY GROUP

231 Farmington Avenue, 3rd Floor East
Farmington, CT 06032
860-676-1100 | www.cowentaxgroup.com

Estate Planning Checklist

Six areas to review so your wishes are clear and the people you love are protected.

1 Your Will and Trust

- ☐ Your will is current, names an executor and says who receives your property.
- ☐ If you have minor children, your will names a guardian for them.
- ☐ You have asked an attorney whether a revocable living trust fits your situation.
- ☐ If you have a trust, your attorney has confirmed the right assets are titled to it.

2 Financial Power of Attorney

- ☐ A financial power of attorney names someone you trust to act if you cannot.
- ☐ A backup agent is named in case your first choice cannot serve.
- ☐ Your banks and financial institutions have a copy on file.

3 Health Care and Final Wishes

- ☐ You have appointed a health care representative.
- ☐ Your living will states your wishes for end-of-life care.
- ☐ Your representative, family and doctors have copies.
- ☐ If you are seriously ill, you have talked with your doctor about a DNR order or MOLST form. These are medical orders that emergency responders follow.
- ☐ Your funeral and burial wishes are in writing, with someone named to carry them out.

4 Beneficiary Designations

- ☐ Beneficiaries on your IRAs, 401(k)s, life insurance and annuities match your estate plan. These designations usually take priority over your will.
- ☐ Every account has a contingent (backup) beneficiary.
- ☐ If a beneficiary has special needs, an attorney has reviewed how to leave an inheritance without affecting their benefits.

5 Taxes and Your Legacy

- ☐ You know whether federal or Connecticut estate and gift tax could apply to you.
- ☐ Your plan accounts for how heirs will be taxed on inherited retirement accounts.
- ☐ You have decided whether lifetime gifts or charitable giving fit your goals.

6 Organize and Communicate

- ☐ You keep a current list of your accounts, insurance policies, property and debts.
- ☐ Your executor knows where your original documents are kept.
- ☐ Authorized people have instructions for securely accessing your digital accounts.
- ☐ Your plan has been reviewed since your last major life change, such as a marriage, divorce, birth, death or move.

If you need assistance, please call our office at **860-676-1100** for a no cost/no obligation consultation.

Feel Good, Live Well, Retire Happy®

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