



## ESTATE PLANNING

## RBC DOMINION SECURITIES INC. FINANCIAL PLANNING PUBLICATIONS



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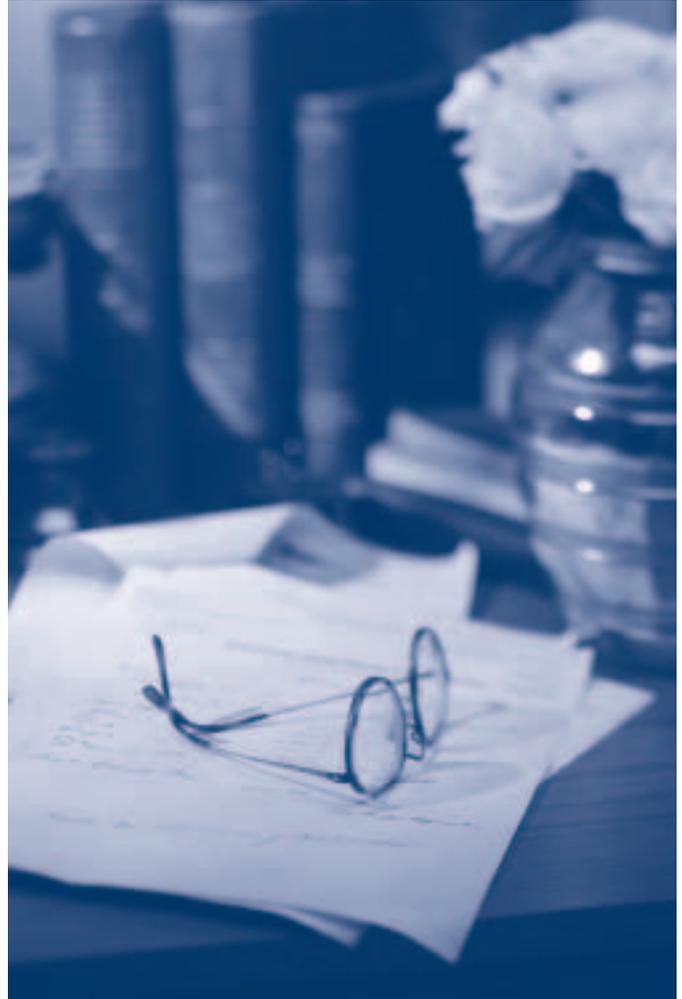
## 2 › COMMON ELEMENTS OF AN ESTATE PLAN

When most people hear the term estate planning, they typically think of their Will. While a valid Will is a fundamental component of any estate plan, there are several other elements that must be considered.

Given the wide range of objectives you may wish to achieve, proper estate planning requires careful consideration of many factors. Often, in an effort to minimize income taxes or avoid probate taxes, another objective is thwarted. For this reason it is important to weigh and balance the costs and benefits of different courses of action. Ultimately, the issues addressed in the Will are a reflection of all elements of the estate plan.

Common elements of an estate plan that must be considered include:

- › Valid and current Wills for all adults in the family
- › Different types of power of attorney for all adults in the family
- › Evaluation of insurance coverage (i.e. do you have sufficient coverage?)
- › Ownership structure (i.e. the use of Joint Tenancy agreements)
- › Planning for incapacity
- › Advanced estate planning opportunities (i.e. the use of Living Trusts)
- › Taxes at death
- › Planned gifting
- › Pre-planned funeral arrangements



## 9 › WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

After reading this publication you will hopefully have gained a greater appreciation for the issues that exist in estate planning and are now motivated enough to act. Creating your own estate plan will not necessarily be an arduous task but does require a commitment of time and some money.

The following steps should be considered as you begin this process:

- › Follow the six steps outlined in the “Creating your estate plan” section. The most important step is establishing your estate objectives. Take your time.
- › If you require additional information in any of the areas discussed in this publication, talk to your advisor.
- › Speak to your advisor regarding the completion of a financial plan. A financial plan will assist you through the evaluation phase of your estate plan, addressing Will planning and life insurance needs assessment within the context of your overall objectives.
- › If you require additional insurance coverage, contact your life-licensed representative for assistance. A variety of insurance products from many of Canada’s leading insurance companies are available through a life-licensed representative.
- › Develop your estate plan with the assistance of your accountant, lawyer, notary and advisor. If you do not have a relationship with an accountant, lawyer or notary, ask your advisor to refer you to one.
- › Contact your advisor to find out how services such as agent for executor, corporate executor, and trustee services can assist you in your estate planning needs.
- › Implement your plan. The most significant hurdle facing you is time. Most often people set out with the best of intentions but never implement. If you have made it this far, make sure you complete the process.
- › Finally, once your estate plan is complete you must recognize that you are still not finished. Your estate plan should be revisited every two to three years to determine if it is still in keeping with your objectives.



**For a full version of this manual, please contact your Investment Advisor**

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