

Estate planning checklist

There are a number of issues you need to take into account when assessing your estate planning needs. The following checklist has been prepared to highlight some of the events which might trigger the need to review your estate planning. Please tick any questions which are of concern.

- Have you considered which of your assets you can distribute via your Will and which assets need to be taken care of separately?
- Who may be able to lay claim to your estate, even if they are not a beneficiary in your Will?
- How should you structure your financial affairs to retain your family assets within the family?
- How can the assets that fall outside your Will be distributed to your beneficiaries in a tax-effective manner?
- Will you have sufficient assets to meet your estate planning objectives?
- Have you recently married, separated or divorced?
- Is there an impending property settlement following a relationship breakdown either for yourself or any of your nominated beneficiaries?

- Will you need to make special provision for any beneficiaries?
- Have you considered the effect of an inheritance on beneficiaries who are becoming bankrupt, hold company directorships or are partners in a professional practice?
- Are the binding superannuation nominations you made still appropriate?
- Have you chosen a suitable executor?
- Has your nominated executor died or is now unwilling or unable to act on your behalf?
- If you have a trust structure in place, who will eventually gain control of the assets in the event of your death?
- What effect would your death have on your self-managed super fund, family trust or family company?
- Do you have a Power of Attorney?
- What are the Capital Gains Tax implications for assets you're leaving to your beneficiaries?
- What are the taxation consequences of your current estate plan?

This checklist is not exhaustive, but highlights some of the important issues that you may need to consider when reviewing your estate plan.

If you don't know the answers to any of these questions or have doubts about your current estate plan, talk to your financial adviser for professional assistance in reviewing your estate planning in relation to your overall financial strategy.

To speak directly with a Mercer financial adviser call 1800 633 403.
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