

## Avoiding Family Conflicts After a Death

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No one likes to think about their own mortality, but making a proper estate plan can help to lessen the grief of loved ones left behind. Alternately, without a written estate plan, surviving family members are often saddled with the responsibility of making estate decisions without a clear understanding of the deceased's wishes.

The effects of poor [estate planning](#) [1] can be far-reaching, but perhaps one of the most insidious effects is the conflict that can occur within families as a result. Many individuals believe that their family is too close to squabble over money or "who gets what", but they miss the point. Even families with the best relationships can experience conflict because of poor estate planning.

To help surviving family members move forward with solidarity after a loss, here are some proven tips for reducing the possibility of family blowouts and arguments.

1. **Talk Openly with Your Family.** The biggest problem with leaving your family to finalize your estate is that they will not have a clear understanding of your wishes and estate planning strategy.
2. **Think Ahead with Your Lawyer.** Do not just consider which family members might want or be required to take control of your estate. Consider which family members might be best suited to handle the estate.
3. **Consider Insurance and Wills.** Insurance is an important part of your estate planning tool, even for those with large estates. Make sure you have a will and a trust in place to carry out your wishes after a death.
4. **Keep Your Wishes in Date.** This should go without saying, but always keep your will updated and be sure to communicate your wishes to your family.
5. **Finally, Choose a Suitable Executor.** Selecting the right executor is vital to fulfill your wishes completely and also want to consider someone who can keep emotions out of the mix.

Speak to a qualified financial advisor if you have questions or concerns about creating a proper estate plan for either yourself or someone else in your family.

## Questions about Estate Planning?

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