

## Estate planning client guide

# Estate planning: Certainty for you and your family (South Australia)

To ensure your estate plan is in order, there are four important documents you may need to consider:

- 1 A Will
- 2 An enduring power of attorney
- 3 An advance care directive
- 4 A superannuation nomination

## 1. A Will

Your Will forms the foundation of your estate plan. It allows you to:

- direct how you want your assets distributed to your beneficiaries
- appoint an executor of your choice
- appoint a guardian for any children who are minors when you die
- establish a trust for any beneficiary to provide asset protection, tax advantages or other specific purpose
- make gifts to charities or establish your own charitable trust.

## 2. An enduring power of attorney

An enduring power of attorney (EPA) is a legal document that gives another person (or trustee company) the authority to make financial and legal decisions on your behalf, and remains in place even if you lose your mental capacity.

An enduring power of attorney allows your nominated representative to act for you when you need it most. Without this protection, a family member or friend will have to seek authority from the relevant Tribunal before being able to act on your behalf. An enduring power of attorney is crucial to ensure your financial affairs continue to be effectively managed prior to your death and in line with your overall estate plan.

## 3. An advance care directive

An advance care directive (ACD) is a legal document that gives another person ('substitute decision-maker') the authority to make medical and lifestyle decisions if you are ever unable to make those decisions for yourself in the future.

It is recommended that you appoint a trusted family member or friend.

You are also encouraged to include clear directions about future health care, end-of-life decisions, residential and accommodation arrangements and other personal matters.

## 4. Superannuation nominations

In the event of your death, the distribution of your superannuation is generally not controlled by your Will; it's controlled by the trustee of the superannuation fund. Many superannuation funds permit binding death benefit nominations which allow members to specify how their superannuation benefits are to be paid upon their death. To ensure your superannuation is paid to your chosen beneficiaries, it's important to know whether your fund allows such a nomination, and if so, whether the nomination is binding on the fund.

We will ensure that all your important documents are correctly prepared to meet your current needs. If your circumstances change, you can consult with us to review your requirements.

To make an appointment, call us on **1800 882 218**

