In Memoriam

Amundson - Burke

Joann Royce Amundson
Sept. 27, 1937 - June 9, 2021

William Antonioli
March 10, 1921 - July 22, 2020

Darlene Elizabeth Hurkes Panion Berube
Oct. 27, 1930 - May 23, 2021

Shane Michael Anderson
Dec. 31, 1975 - May 9, 2021

Virginia Garrity Nelson Bair
April 16, 1948 - April 12, 2021

Adam Tyler Bleken
Oct. 11, 1988 - May 19, 2021

Steven Arthur Anderson
Feb. 24, 1990 - June 18, 2021

Ricky "Rick" Lee Berkopec
July 17, 1977 - June 6, 2021

Debra Bleken
July 27, 1964 - June 10, 2021

Mary Margaret Brandl
Died June 1, 2021

Robert "Buzz" Brodie
Dec. 12, 1933 - June 21, 2021

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Missoula
IN MEMORIAM

**Callow - Ferguson**

**Kevin Callow**
Sept. 21, 1941 - May 24, 2021

**Darleen Mae Casebolt**
June 12, 1931 - June 19, 2021

**Dolores “Dodie” Mae Cox**
April 10, 1926 - May 31, 2021

**Helen Davis**
Oct. 3, 1928 - May 8, 2021

**Patrick Joseph Driscoll**
Feb. 21, 1955 - May 8, 2021

**Wayne “Bapa” Estep**
Nov. 10, 1942 - June 11, 2021

**Sally (Lila Mae) Johnson Campbell**
Jan. 1, 1924 - June 5, 2021

**John Carl Cashell**
Aug. 6, 1936 - April 29, 2021

**John Edward Crossman**
Oct. 4, 1932 - May 2, 2021

**Con Dennehy**
June 20, 1943 - June 4, 2021

**Anna Elizabeth (Clouse) Eich**
March 26, 1943 - May 4, 2021

**William “Bill” Eva Jr.**
Aug. 10, 1958 - April 12, 2021

**Clyde N. Casagranda**
Dec. 30, 1929 - June 15, 2021

**Christopher L. Costello**
Sept. 7, 1965 - May 14, 2021

**Donna Darby**
July 15, 1927 - May 24, 2021

**Delores S. Drew**
BUTTE
June 5, 1937 - June 5, 2021

**Dorothy Marie Esheim**
Jan. 12, 1924 - June 15, 2021

**Joseph “Joe” Ferguson**
ANACONDA
Died May 14, 2021

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IN MEMORIAM

**Johnson - Morris**

- **Robert L. “Bondo” Johnson**
  March 6, 1948 - May 25, 2021

- **Margaret Marie Laughlin**
  Dec. 27, 1939 - April 30, 2021

- **John “Jack” Edward Lowney**
  Dec. 20, 1948 - May 17, 2021

- **Anthony Walter Manninen**
  BUTTE
  Aug. 25, 1943 - June 6, 2021

- **John Richards Meeks**
  BUTTE
  Nov. 8, 1944 - May 11, 2021

- **Janet Morris**
  Oct. 27, 1956 - June 11, 2021

- **Michael Edward Kahoe**
  July 3, 1950 - Jan. 23, 2021

- **Violet “Snooky” Lazetich**
  Jan. 29, 1929 - May 24, 2021

- **Walter Lowney**
  Sept. 17, 1941 - July 26, 2020

- **Norman “Mick” Michael McGinnis**
  March 11, 1944 - May 14, 2021

- **Kathleen L. “Sis” Molek**
  BUXTON
  July 28, 1938 - April 29, 2021

- **Sallie Marlene Morris**
  Oct. 2, 1933 - May 8, 2021

- **Dorothy “Jean” Kennedy**
  Jan. 26, 1935 - June 6, 2021

- **John Scott LeProwse**
  Sept. 1, 1986 - May 29, 2021

- **Margaret “Miggs” Lubke**
  June 29, 1934 - May 30, 2021

- **Marvin Faulden Lundberg**
  DILLON
  Jan. 14, 1932 - April 29, 2021

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Riley - Strozzi

Daniel J. “Dan” Riley
BUTTE
April 8, 1937 - May 28, 2021

Ronda Marie Rowe
Oct. 11, 1933 - May 9, 2021

Henry “Hank” Stanton Slosson
June 20, 1942 - June 21, 2021

William Ambler St. Marks
PINEHURST, ID
Feb. 16, 1953 - April 8, 2021

Edwin Charles Stretch
Sept. 15, 1936 - May 26, 2021

Robert Donald Strong
ANACONDA
Sept. 12, 1933 - April 30, 2021

Jeanette “Kookie” Hughes Roberson
Died June 6, 2021

Beverly Marie (Tover) Rudolph
March 19, 1927 - June 11, 2021

Walter Joseph “Sam” Smith
HAMILTON
May 24, 1935 - April 28, 2021

David Stolingwa
KENNEWICK, WA
Feb. 26, 1963 - June 7, 2021

Patrick M. Stretch
SPOKANE VALLEY, WA
March 2, 1957 - May 30, 2021

Robert Neil Strozzi
Oct. 16, 1932 - June 11, 2021

Thomas Joseph “TJ” Roeber
Sept. 19, 1978 - May 6, 2021

Helen Ryan
TERRY
March 10, 1950 - May 26, 2021

Ronald E. Sternod
Dec. 24, 1938 - April 9, 2021

Robert Donald Strong
ANACONDA
Sept. 12, 1933 - April 30, 2021

Debbie Rowe
March 28, 1949 - May 26, 2021

Delbert Wayne Shepard
March 22, 1958 - May 20, 2021

Nichole Michelle Stewart
Sept. 21, 1979 - June 18, 2021

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A New Dimension Of Service For A New Century
When you make a commitment to donate healthy organs or tissue at the time of your death, you positively impact the lives of others. When planning your legacy, it’s easy to have your loved ones at the forefront of your mind, but a simple registration could influence the life of a stranger.

According to the United States Department of Health & Human Services, there are two ways to sign up to be an organ donor. From the comfort of your home, visit their website and fill out a simple form. If you would rather complete the process with a representative, the experts at the local Department of Motor Vehicles can help.

Statistics

There are thousands of Americans in need of healthy organs or tissue. Here are some statistics from the United Network of Organ Sharing, to show you the importance of registering:

- 113,864 people are on a waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant.
- One organ donor can save eight lives.
- A person is added to the national transplant waiting list every ten minutes.

How you can help

Adults who are legal citizens in the United States are eligible to donate organs at the time of death, and, in some cases, during their lifetime. Of course, certain diseases may inhibit your from becoming a donor; be honest about your health conditions during registration.

Some things that may prevent someone from applying are an HIV infection, cancer or a systemic infection. Keep in mind that organs that aren’t affected from these diseases may qualify, so visit a representative to discuss your options.

Talking with family

Make sure to discuss your wishes with your family. Conversations regarding death are never easy.
Text Tributes

Joan Brennan
Aug. 28, 1939 - May 2, 2021

Wayne C. Clark
Nov. 12, 1954 - May 8, 2021

Marthanne “Marty” Keogh
June 7, 1939 - May 25, 2021

Donald George Murray
Sept. 4, 1943 - May 11, 2021

Roger Oettli
Nov. 25, 1950 - May 15, 2021

Stephen Anthony Rotering
April 8, 1948 - April 17, 2021

Susan Kavran Tapio
July 6, 1952 - May 24, 2021

Tips for finding an estate attorney

The intricate details required to make documents legal are not worth gambling when estate planning. Your best bet is to work with an estate attorney who can ensure your belongings and finances are handled per your wishes after death.

Modern technology makes claims that those concerned with creating end-of-life plans can easily create documents through free or affordable websites. But a local attorney is a safer bet.

When you’re researching local attorneys, it’s beneficial to meet with a few experts to gauge your compatibility. During your meeting, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys encourages you to ask these questions to understand an attorney’s qualifications and experience regarding estate planning.

- Does the practice emphasize a particular area of law?
- What percentage of the firm is devoted to special needs planning?
- How long has the attorney been in practice or the field?

It’s imperative to be clear with the goals you aim to accomplish when pre-planning so you’re both prepared to create a solid strategy.

Avoid DIY Planning

When creating a concrete estate plan, it’s best to avoid DIY methods to save a few bucks. Since your final arrangements are meant to ensure your financial obligations and assets are legally appointed, mistake-free documentation is crucial. An expert estate attorney can not only draft secure documentation, but they will stand by it and update it as requirements change, or at a client’s request.

- Green Shoot Media

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Estate planning tips for newlyweds

Making estate or end-of-life planning is likely the last thing on your mind after beginning life as a married couple. However, with the new unity, the responsibility of protecting your spouse in case of an untimely death is critical. Experts say thinking about estate planning early in the marriage process can actually be a bonding experience.

Discussing estate planning isn’t always easy. However, the journey must be traveled together. If your spouse is hesitant to approach the subject, share the importance of its meaning and subject, share the importance of it with them in a secure, fireproof safe. It's also a good idea to make separate copies and store them in an off-site location like a deposit box.

A few forms you should include are birth certificates, social security cards, passports and documents that represent your children. You will also need to be honest about financial information like bank accounts, life insurance policies and retirement plans.

**Set a List of Goals**

Writing a list of goals for your estate can help you meet milestones and make more significant attempts to save to meet your vision. Consider deciding on a set amount that will benefit your loved ones and a sum that goes to a chosen charity.

Work together to make a plan, set achievements and reach your accomplishments. One significant advantage is to work with an expert estate planning attorney who can provide the right steps you should take.

**Create a Will and Trust**

A secure will or trust is an excellent place to begin when drafting your estate plans. The documents or accounts can express your desires for distributing your assets or finances without loved ones facing drawn-out probate processes.

Of course, remember to update your final wishes as you welcome children into the world or life situations change.

**Avoid Probate**

According to the American Bar Association, probate is the court-supervised legal procedure that determines the validity of your will. The legal action is necessary when appointing an executor to administer an estate and distribute assets to noted beneficiaries. A way to avoid this sometimes-lengthy requirement is to create a living trust within your final wishes.

**What is a Trust?**

A trust is an agreement between a grantor, the person who assigns control of an asset, and a beneficiary who receives the benefits upon death. The policy is managed by a trustee who ensures the policy is handled per your requests when it comes into effect.

Typically, there are two different types of trusts related to estate planning. Here is how they differ, as suggested by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

- Revocable trust: This legal document can be revoked, terminated or changed at any time by the grantor.
- Irrevocable trust: A grantor appoints beneficiaries to property or assets while giving up the power to cancel or modify the terms.

When deciding which type of trust is right for your situation, discussing the options with a professional attorney can help make the decision easier.
What is a fiduciary?

The American Bar Association defines an individual fiduciary as someone that acts for the benefit of another.

In terms of estate planning, trustees, executors and personal representatives are all considered fiduciaries. Before you appoint a loved one to take care of your assets and finances after you’re gone, learn their responsibilities.

The American Association of Retired Persons reminds us to contemplate the difficulties associated with wrapping up a lifetime of financial affairs. The group suggests asking these essential questions when considering the decision of who will be in charge.

Do They Have Time?

Managing an estate is not always a definite process. In some cases, executors are required to make multiple trips to county offices, postal facilities and sometimes financial institutes. The method of sorting through documents to tie up debts, investments and life insurance policies can be time-consuming.

Are They Organized?

Another aspect to consider is a potential manager’s organizational skills. They are generally required to keep track of extensive documentation and setting and attending meetings with bankers, lawyers and other experts. Ensure someone has an exceptional record with their finances and punctuality so the task of estate manager isn’t overwhelming.

Do They Understand Your Wishes?

Whether you choose one executor or spread the responsibilities among others, being clear about your wishes is crucial. You should cover the entirety of your estate planning regarding plans such as the following.

- Discuss your vision for your funeral ceremony and the related expenses.
- Explain how much money will be left and your view on how it should be used.
- Be transparent regarding debt, life insurance policies and assets.

Can They Afford It?

The last thing you want is to strain someone else’s finances as they attempt to manage yours.

If you’re fiduciary lives out of town, consider the expenses they would face when traveling back and forth to address details that require attention.

When considering multiple executors to manage your estate, it’s vital to have an open and honest discussion with each. Sitting down for a conversation about death can be difficult, especially for family members.

However, approaching the subject of estate planning and the importance of preparing to make the situation easier for loved ones can help create a more comfortable meeting.

What to leave out of a will

While you want to be as detailed as possible when creating your last will, there are numerous factors you should avoid.

The most efficient way to decide what to include is by working with a trusted attorney. Of course, they will charge for their services, but hiring an expert gains valuable knowledge that you won’t find with free drafting software that many companies offer.

Mistakes like entering your funeral instructions into the document can cause family members problems and lead to your last wishes being missed. In most states, the settling of the estate occurs after someone is laid to rest.

Your loved ones may not even see your desires until after the funeral. Instead of documenting them into your will, hold a conversation with your family to explain your vision. Or you can create a separate document with the chosen executor of your estate, so they have a recording to follow.

Here are other factors that should be handled individually rather than documented in your last will.

Do Not Arrange Care for Special Needs Person

Another misconception that many err in is designating care instructions for a special needs person in their lives. Rather than directing the information into your will, consider opening a type of trust that directly benefits a specific loved one at the time of your death. Find out more about the options in your area by meeting with a trusted expert or your lawyer.

Joint Accounts

If you share a joint account with someone else, typically at the time of one’s death, the funds are solely taken over by the survivor. The transfer is generally seamless and rarely goes through probate.

However, you can leave an account of your own by including a recipient as a payable-on-death beneficiary. After death, the person must visit the bank and present a death certificate and identification to receive the account you contributed.

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