



Estate Planning Essentials:

Legal, Financial & Tax Considerations

Presented by:

Ethan Stone and Garrett Murphy, CPA

Estate Planning For Your Future

Presented by

| Ethan K. Stone, Esq. | Jameson Stone Law

What is an Estate Plan?

- An **estate plan** specifies how you want your money and other assets distributed upon death and assigns individuals to make decisions for you if you are physically or mentally unable to do so yourself.
- Your attorney, financial advisor, insurance agent, and accountant can all work together to make sure your estate plan is complete.

Why is Estate Planning Important?

- It allows you, while you are still living, to ensure that your property will go to the people you want, in the way you want, and when you want.
- To control your personal, medical, and financial affairs after you no longer can because of incapacity or unavailability
- To save as much as possible on taxes, court costs, and attorney's fees
- To avoid disputes, such as, Will contests
- Provides comfort that your loved ones can mourn your loss without being simultaneously burdened with unnecessary red tape and financial confusion
- To name a guardian for minor children

Life events

When to make/change an estate plan?

- Marriage/Divorce
- Child is born
- Children are adults
- Death in the family
- Purchase property
- Travel
- Start a business
- Change in family dynamics

Most Common Documents

- Health Care Power of Attorney/Living Will
- Durable Power of Attorney
- HIPAA Release
- Will
 - Simple Will
 - Will Trust (Testamentary)
- Trust
 - Revocable and Irrevocable
 - Supplemental Needs Trust

Health Care Power of Attorney

- Allows an agent whom you designate to make health care decisions for you should you be unable to make those decisions for yourself
- Often contains a “Living Will Declaration” indicating the types of care you want provided or withheld when there is no reasonable chance of recovery
- You can state if you want to be an organ donor
- Often avoids a need for legal guardianship

Durable Power of Attorney

- Authorizes a designated person or persons to act on your behalf in making financial and legal decisions
- Agent holds a fiduciary role
- Generally used when authorized or when you are incapacitated
- Avoids guardianships/conservatorships
- Very powerful document which should not be taken lightly

Will

- Primary Estate Planning Document
- Directs the administration and distribution of your “probate” assets upon death
 - Can list specific bequests; OR
 - Attach a list to your will which you can update periodically
- Designates an Executor to pay your debts and taxes, and to handle the administration of the Estate, and distribution of your assets to beneficiaries
- Designates a guardian for your minor children
- Can create a Testamentary Trust and name Trustee

PA Inheritance Tax v. Federal Estate Tax

- Specific rates for the tax vary widely:
 - **0%:** Surviving spouses, and parents inheriting from a child aged 21 or younger.
 - **4.5%:** Direct descendants, lineal heirs, stepchildren, and adopted children.
 - **12%:** Siblings.
 - **15%:** Nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and other unrelated individuals
 - Pennsylvania offers a **5% discount** on the total tax bill if the inheritance tax is paid in full within three months of the decedent's passing
- Federal Estate Tax - \$15 Million per person – Fewer than 1/1000 estates are large enough to owe this tax

JAMESON STONE LAW

Ethan K. Stone, Esq.

3400 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011

(717) 220-3529

Ethan@JamesonStoneLaw.com

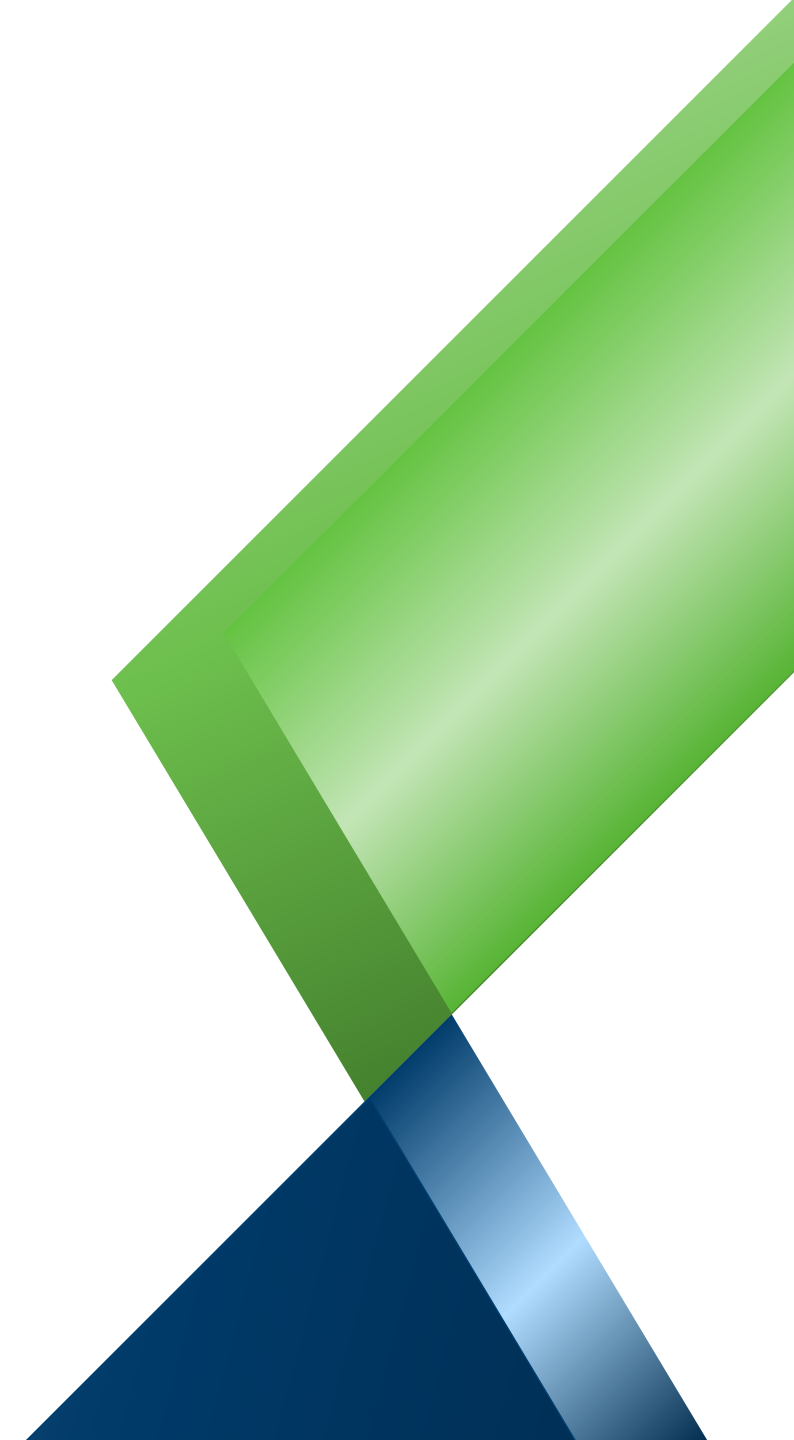


Estate, Tax & Legacy Planning

Tax Decisions That Matter During Estate
Administration and Lifetime Gifting

Garrett Murphy, CPA | Tax Manager

SPARK • September 22, 2026
© Boyer & Ritter LLC. All Rights Reserved.



The Tax Plan Must Match the Estate Plan

Documents set the direction; ownership and beneficiary forms control the result.



Beneficiary Designations: Small Form, Large Consequence

- Confirm primary and contingent beneficiaries.
- Align retirement, insurance, annuity and transfer-on-death instructions with the estate plan.
- Do not name the estate by default.
- Revisit forms after major family, financial or business changes.
- Keep one inventory for the attorney, financial advisor and CPA.

Inherited Retirement Accounts: Identify Before You Distribute

Classify the facts first—there is no universal year-10 answer.



WHO

Beneficiary type

Spouse, other individual, trust, estate, charity or entity?



WHEN

Date-of-death fact

Before or after the required beginning date?



WHAT

Account type

Traditional IRA, Roth IRA, employer plan or inherited IRA?



HOW

Distribution plan

Which option and tax-year timing fit the beneficiary?

Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax: Relationship and Timing Matter

Gather complete facts early; relationship and timing can change the tax result.

Assets

Date-of-death values, ownership, statements, real estate and business interests.

Deductions

Expenses, debts, professional fees, funeral costs and support.



People

Beneficiaries and each person's relationship to the decedent.

Timing

Filing calendar, liquidity, estimates and distribution timing.

Estate Administration Has Multiple Tax Workstreams

Assign an owner, deadline and status to each workstream.

Estate or Trust

Form 1041 fiduciary returns during administration.

Transfer Taxes

Form 706 when required or elected, plus Pennsylvania reporting.



Individual

Final Form 1040 and any prior-year individual matters.

Beneficiaries

Schedule K-1s, distributions, basis information and asset records.

Gifts in 2026: Two Different Buckets

2026 figures—confirm law and individual facts.

\$19,000

Annual exclusion

Per donor and recipient

Qualifying gifts only

Excess may require a
return—not automatic tax



\$15 million

Lifetime exemption

Per individual

Taxable lifetime gifts reduce
what remains at death

Reporting may still apply

A Good Gift Is More Than an Amount

Purpose

Why now: education, support, succession, protection or wealth transfer?

Control & cash flow

Can the donor surrender access, control and future income?



Asset

Cash, investments, real estate, a business interest or a trust?

Tax & basis

Income tax, capital gain, basis, gift reporting and state effects?

Valuation

Is an appraisal or other support needed?
Document while facts are clear.

Common Tax Pitfalls

Six avoidable mistakes can derail otherwise sound planning.

Facts misaligned

Attorney, advisor, executor
and CPA differ.

Basis ignored

The income-tax cost is
overlooked.

Early distributions

Taxes, expenses and
reserves were not modeled.



Unsupported gifts

Valuation or documentation
is incomplete.

Outdated forms

Old designations can
override current intent.

Estate named

A default choice can change
tax or distribution options.

Your 30-Day Estate and Gifting Checkup

Act before a deadline forces the decision. Questions?

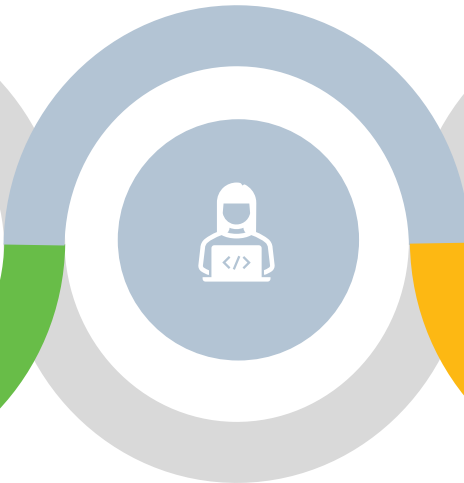
1 GATHER

Documents and prior gift-tax returns



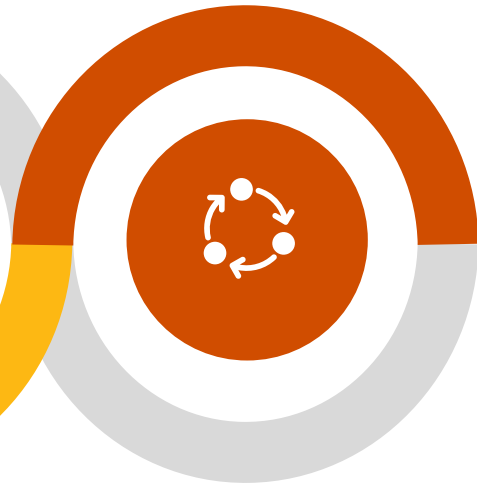
3 MODEL

Distributions, liquidity, gifts, basis and tax



5 DOCUMENT

Values, elections, deadlines and owners



2 COMPARE

Plan vs. ownership and beneficiaries



4 COORDINATE

Attorney, advisor and CPA

