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## Estate Planning Worksheet

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The Ruddy Law Firm, A Professional Corporation  
Estate and Trust Planning

USING THIS ORGANIZER WILL ASSIST US IN DESIGNING AN ESTATE PLAN THAT MEETS YOUR GOALS.  
ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED WORKSHEET TO OUR OFFICE PRIOR TO YOUR  
APPOINTMENT VIA MAIL OR FAX.

**Part I**  
**Personal Information**

Client's Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(name most often used to title property and accounts)

Also Known As \_\_\_\_\_  
(other names used to title property and accounts)

Prefer to be called \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ SS# \_\_\_\_\_ US Citizen? \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Business Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  It is okay to communicate with me via my E-mail address.

Divorced  Widowed  Single

Password for your ClientDocx account and for protecting confidential documents sent over email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Children and Other Family Members**

*Use full legal name:*

Name	Birth date	Relationship
_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____

**Advisors**

Name	Telephone
Personal Attorney _____	_____
Accountant _____	_____
Financial Advisor _____	_____
Life Insurance Agent _____	_____

**Your Concerns**

Please rate the following as to how important they are to you:

*(H high concern, S some concerned, L low concern, N/A no concern or not applicable)*

**Description**

**Level of Concern**

Desire to get affairs in order and create a comprehensive plan to manage affairs in case of death or disability.

\_\_\_\_\_

Providing for and protecting children.

\_\_\_\_\_

Providing for and protecting grandchildren.

\_\_\_\_\_

Disinheriting a family member.

\_\_\_\_\_

Providing for charities at the time of death.

\_\_\_\_\_

Plan for the transfer and survival of a family business.

\_\_\_\_\_

Avoiding or reducing your estate taxes.

\_\_\_\_\_

Avoiding probate.

\_\_\_\_\_

Reduce administration costs at time of your death.

\_\_\_\_\_

Avoiding a conservatorship (“living probate”) in case of a disability.

\_\_\_\_\_

Avoiding will contests or other disputes upon death.

\_\_\_\_\_

Protecting assets from lawsuits or creditors.

\_\_\_\_\_

Preserving the privacy of affairs in case of disability or at time of death from business competitors, predators, dishonest persons and curiosity seekers.

\_\_\_\_\_

Plan for a child with disabilities or special needs, such as medical or learning disabilities.

\_\_\_\_\_

Protecting children’s inheritance from the possibility of failed marriages.

\_\_\_\_\_

Provide that your death shall not be unnecessarily prolonged by artificial means or measures.

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Concerns (Please list below):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Important Family Questions**

(Please check "Yes" or "No" for your answer)	Yes	No
Are you receiving Social Security, disability, or other governmental benefits? <i>Describe</i> _____		
Are you making payments pursuant to a divorce or property settlement order? <i>Please furnish a copy</i>		
Have you been widowed? <i>If a federal estate tax return or a state death tax return was filed, please furnish a copy</i>		
Have you ever filed federal or state gift tax returns? <i>Please furnish copies of these returns</i>		
Have completed previous will, trust, or estate planning? <i>Please furnish copies of these documents</i>		
Do you support any charitable organizations now that you wish to make provisions for at the time of your death? <i>If so, please explain below.</i>		
Are there any other charitable organizations you wish to make provisions for at the time of your death? <i>If so, please explain below.</i>		
Are you currently the beneficiary of anyone else's trust? <i>If so, please explain below.</i>		
Do any of your children have special educational, medical, or physical needs?		
Do any of your children receive governmental support or benefits?		
Do you provide primary or other major financial support to adult children or others?		

**Additional Information**

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**Part II**  
**Property Information**

**Instructions for Completing the Property Information checklist:**

**General Headings**

This *Property Information* checklist is to help you list all the property you own and what it is worth. You probably won't own property under all the headings; if not, just leave those blank. Under certain headings you may own more property than can be listed on this checklist. If so, attach **extra sheets** of paper to list your additional property.

**Type**

Immediately after the heading for each kind of property is a brief explanation of what property you should list under that heading.

**“Owner” of Property**

How you own your property is **extremely important** for purposes of properly designing and implementing your estate plan. For each property, please indicate how the property is titled using the following abbreviations:

<b>Owner of Property</b>	<b>Use</b>
If own property in your name only	I
Joint Tenancy with someone other than a spouse, i.e. a child, parent, etc.	JTO
If you cannot determine how the property is owned	?

**Real Property**

**TYPE:** Any interest in real estate including your family residence, vacation home, time share, vacant land, etc.

General Description and/or Address	Owner	Market Value	Loan Balance
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
	<i>Total</i>	_____	_____

**Furniture and Personal Effects**

**TYPE:** List separately only major personal effects such as jewelry, collections, antiques, furs, and all other valuable non-business personal property (*indicate type below and give a lump sum value for miscellaneous, less valuable items.*).

Type or Description	Owner	Market Value
Miscellaneous Furniture and Household Effects (Total)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
	<i>Total</i>	_____

**Automobiles, Boats, and RVs**

**TYPE:** For each motor vehicle, boat, RV, etc. please list the following: description, how titled, market value and encumbrance:

_____
_____
_____
_____

**Bank Accounts**

**TYPE:** Checking Account "CA", Savings Account "SA", Certificates of Deposit "CD", Money Market "MM" (*indicate type below*). Do not include IRAs or 401(k)s here

Name of Institution and account number	Type	Owner	Amount
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
		<i>Total</i>	_____

Note: If Account is in your name (or your spouse's name) for the benefit of a minor, please specify and give minor's name.

## Stocks and Bonds

**TYPE:** List any and all stocks and bonds you own. If held in a brokerage account, lump them together under each account.  
(indicate type below)

Stocks, Bonds or Investment Accounts	Type	Acct. Number	Owner	Amount
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Total</i>				_____

## Life Insurance Policies and Annuities

**TYPE:** Term, whole life, split dollar, group life, annuity. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Insurance company, type, face amount (death benefit), whose life is insured, who owns the policy, the current beneficiaries, who pays the premium, and who is the life insurance agent.

_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
<i>Total</i>				_____

## Retirement Plans

**TYPE:** Pension (P), Profit Sharing (PS), H.R. 10, IRA, SEP, 401(K). **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Describe the type of plan, the plan name, the current value of the plan, and any other pertinent information.

_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
<i>Total</i>				_____

### Business Interests

**TYPE:** General and Limited Partnerships, Sole Proprietorships, privately owned corporations, professional corporations, oil interests, farm and ranch interests. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Give a description of the interests, who has the interest, your ownership in the interests, and the estimated value of the interests.

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*Total* \_\_\_\_\_

### Money Owed to You

**TYPE:** Mortgages or promissory notes payable to you, or other moneys owed to you.

Name of Debtor	Date of Note	Maturity Date	Owed to	Current Balance
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
			<i>Total</i>	_____

### Anticipated Inheritance, Gift, or Lawsuit Judgment

**TYPE:** Gifts or inheritances that you expect to receive at some time in the future; or moneys that you anticipate receiving through a judgment in a lawsuit. **Describe in appropriate detail.**

**Description** \_\_\_\_\_

*Total estimated value* \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Assets

**TYPE:** Other property is any property that you have that does not fit into any listed category.

Type	Owner	Value
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
		<i>Total</i>



Assets	Amount*		Total Value
	Client	Other's	
Real Property	_____	_____	_____
Furniture and Personal Effects	_____	_____	_____
Automobiles, Boats and RV's	_____	_____	_____
Bank and Savings Accounts	_____	_____	_____
Stocks and Bonds	_____	_____	_____
Life Insurance and Annuities	_____	_____	_____
Retirement Plans	_____	_____	_____
Business Interests	_____	_____	_____
Money owed to you	_____	_____	_____
Anticipated Inheritance, Etc.	_____	_____	_____
Other Assets	_____	_____	_____
<b>Total Assets:</b>	_____	_____	_____

\* Values for property owned with other put your percentage in client's column and other's percentage in other's column.

**Part III**  
**Design Information**

**PERSONS TO ACT FOR YOU:**

**GUARDIAN FOR MINOR CHILDREN:** If you have any children under the age of 18, list in order of preference who you wish to be guardian.

Name and Address	Relationship
_____	_____
_____	_____

**INITIAL TRUSTEE(S):** Usually you will be the Trustee of your own trust. Allows you to control all of your assets as before.

Name and Address	Relationship
_____	_____
_____	_____

**DISABILITY TRUSTEE:** If you were unable to make decisions for yourself, who would you want to make decisions for you with regard to your property and assets?

Name and Address	Relationship
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**DEATH TRUSTEE:** After your death, who do you want carrying out your instructions, for distribution to and, if desired, management of property for your beneficiaries?

Name and Address	Relationship
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** If you were unable to make financial decisions for yourself, who would you want to make those decisions for you?

Name	Relationship	Instructions or Guidelines
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Do you want to authorize your Financial Agent to make gifts on your behalf during any period of time you are incapacitated?**

Yes  No

**Gifting Power Details:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LIVING WILL:** Do you want to provide that the moment of your death not be unnecessarily prolonged by artificial means or measures? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you want to provide that your organs and tissues should be made available for transplant purposes? \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH CARE:** If you were unable to make decisions for yourself, who would you want to make decisions for you with regard to your medical treatment?

Name	Relationship	Instructions or Guidelines
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Do you want to authorize your Medical Agent to take whatever steps are necessary to keep you in a personal residence rather than nursing home?  Yes  No

Do you want to provide that upon certification by 2 physicians of need for psychological or substance treatment, Agent may arrange for voluntary admission?  Yes  No

In making distributions during any period of time the client is incapacitated, the successor Trustee shall give primary consideration to:

- Your needs and then the needs of others dependent upon you.
- Your needs and the needs of others dependent upon you equally.

**DISTRIBUTIONS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AND SPECIFIC GIFTS**

**USE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY MEMORANDUM:** Do you want to provide that your personal property will be distributed pursuant to a written list you may prepare later?  Yes  No

Any property not listed on the memorandum should be distributed to:

- Children equally.  To the balance of the trust.
- Other named individuals. List on next line.

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**SPECIFIC GIFTS:** List any specific gifts of real estate or cash gifts you wish to make to either individuals or charities.

Individual or Charity	Amount or Property
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**DIVISION OF BALANCE OF MY PROPERTY UPON MY DEATH**

- DIVIDE EQUALLY BETWEEN MY CHILDREN AND THE DESCENDANTS OF ANY DECEASED CHILDREN:**
- DIVIDE AMONG NAMED INDIVIDUALS and/or CHARITIES:**

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**HOW AND WHEN TO DISTRIBUTE MY PROPERTY:**

**DISTRIBUTE OUTRIGHT TO MY BENEFICIARIES:** Provides no protection from creditors, predators, or from themselves.

**STRUCTURED TRUST:** You determine how long the property is to remain in trust. During the period of time the property is held in trust it is available to the beneficiary for needs (health, education and maintenance). You may give written instructions to the trustee outlining guidelines to be followed in determining the beneficiary's needs. You may provide for a staggered distribution of principal; i.e. 1/3 at age 30 and balance at age 40. You decide who will manage the property and to carry out your distribution instructions. Does the beneficiary have a right to be a cotrustee and/or choose his or her own cotrustee? You decide how the trust is designed. List your desires:

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**REMOTE CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY:** Who do you want to receive your property in the remote event that no one listed above is alive to receive your property. Determining the remote contingent beneficiary is not so important that it should cause you to delay completion of your entire estate plan. It can always be changed at a later date.

In the remote event no one listed above is alive to receive my property I want my property distributed as follows:

- To my heirs-at-law.
- To the following named individuals and/or charities:

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**OTHER ITEMS TO INCLUDE OR DISCUSS:** Your estate plan should address all of your hopes, fears, and wishes. Please list any other items you want included or want to discuss:

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