

## Michigan Legal Estate Planning

In Michigan, estate planning involves creating various legal documents to manage and distribute your assets and make decisions regarding your healthcare and finances. Here are several key legal documents commonly used in estate planning in Michigan:

1. **Last Will and Testament (Will):** A will outlines how you want your assets to be distributed after your death ["Who gets what?"] and names a Personal Representative to oversee the distribution. You may nominate guardians for minor children, and you may name a Funeral Representative.
2. **Revocable Family Trust:** A revocable family trust allows you to transfer ownership of your assets into a trust during your lifetime, providing instructions for their management and distribution upon your death. This can help avoid probate and maintain privacy.
3. **Financial Power of Attorney (POA):** This document appoints someone to make financial and legal decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated. It's crucial for managing your affairs if you're unable to do so.
4. **Medical Power of Attorney (POA):** This document designates an individual to make medical decisions for you if you're unable to do so. It's important for healthcare decision-making and treatment. In Michigan, it is done by designating patient advocates to make these decisions.
5. **HIPAA Authorization:** This authorization allows access for all of your protected health information to whomever you name - this can be crucial for your family, advocates and healthcare providers.
6. **Statement of Wishes:** While not a legally binding document, a statement of wishes provides guidance to your loved ones regarding your wishes for the distribution of personal property and sentimental items.
7. **Burial or Cremation Instructions:** Outlines your preferences regarding

**burial, cremation, or other post-death arrangements.**

- 8. Ladybird Deed / Enhanced Life Estate Deed: In Michigan, this deed allows you to designate beneficiaries for your real property, ensuring a smoother transfer of real estate after your passing [while avoiding PROBATE].**

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