

## Avoiding Family Conflicts After a Death

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No one likes to think about their own mortality, but making a proper estate plan can help to lessen the grief of loved ones left behind. Alternately, without a written estate plan, surviving family members are often saddled with the responsibility of making estate decisions without a clear understanding of the deceased's wishes.

The effects of poor [estate planning](#) [1] can be far-reaching, but perhaps one of the most insidious effects is the conflict that can occur within families as a result. Many individuals believe that their family is too close to squabble over money or "who gets what", but they miss the point. Even families with the best relationships can experience conflict because of poor estate planning.

To help surviving family members move forward with solidarity after a loss, here are some proven tips for reducing the possibility of family blowouts and arguments.

1. **Talk Openly with Your Family.** The biggest problem with leaving your family to finalize your estate is that some family members may not have a clear understanding of your own estate planning strategy.
2. **Make a Written Will.** If you have a will, make sure it is clear and unambiguous. If you don't have a will, consider making one now. It is better to have a will than to have no will at all.
3. **Consider Life Insurance.** Life insurance can be a valuable tool for providing for your family after your death. Consider how much life insurance you need and how to pay for it.
4. **Choose a Suitable Executor.** Choose someone who is trustworthy and capable of handling your estate. Make sure you have discussed your wishes with them.
5. **Communicate Your Wishes.** Make sure your family knows your wishes and understands your estate plan. This can help to avoid conflicts after your death.

Speak to a qualified financial advisor if you have questions or concerns about creating a proper estate plan for either yourself or someone else in your family.

## Questions about Estate Planning?

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