

Estate Planning for Blended Families

Planning for blended families in New Jersey presents unique and often complex considerations that take into account the delicate dynamics and diverse needs of families formed through remarriage or step-relationships. Our estate planners provide sensitive and comprehensive legal guidance, with the goal of developing a tailored plan that reflects our clients' specific wishes and minimizes potential conflict. Our planning services for blended families include the clear designation of beneficiaries and the determination of how assets will be distributed among a spouse, children from previous relationships, and stepchildren, ensuring that all intentions are accurately documented. Updating existing estate plans can be critical following a second marriage and the formation of a blended family, including strategies that can allow a surviving spouse to reside in the marital home for their lifetime, with the property ultimately passing to the decedent's children. Trusts can be particularly valuable tools for blended families as well, as a trust can provide for a decedent's current spouse while also ensuring that children from previous relationships receive their intended inheritance. With all blended family strategies, we look to proactively address potential areas of conflict and develop a plan to promote harmony and clear communication among family members.

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Experience

Representative Matters

- Advised a blended family on estate planning involving jointly owned real estate and retirement assets, balancing spousal support with protection of children’s inheritance rights.