



Estate Planning



Asset Protection

Packages and Fee Schedule

Shape a future that honors your legacy.

Dear Client,

Your legacy deserves care, precision, and preservation without burdening your family or business.

As you already know the probate process is long, expensive, and an overall very public experience.

Our estate law firm has extensive experience and a sharp focus on:

- Estate Planning & Trust Law
- Business Law
- Real Estate Law

We are 100% committed to creating estate plans that reflect your specific wishes and adapt to life's changes for a stress-free transition.

Preserving your legacy is at the heart of what we do, as we aim to deliver a wide variety of exceptional services that truly exceed your expectations - all carefully designed for your specific situation.

Our focus on detail and personalized attention ensures that your legacy is protected with precision.

- Will packages tailored for individuals and couples
- Detailed property transfer documents to ensure seamless asset management
- Advanced planning for complex estates, including trusts that secure your generational legacy
- Comprehensive amendment services to keep your estate plan current and reflective of any life changes

We pride ourselves in transparent pricing, dedicated service, and peace of mind in every aspect of your estate planning journey.

No matter the challenge – from business holdings to varied assets – we're equipped to handle it all with ease for you.

Let's safeguard your legacy.

Best regards,
Christian Carson

The Probate Process: A Simplified Overview

While probate plays a crucial role in estate management, it can also be a lengthy and intricate procedure, often involving multiple steps, legal requirements, extensive court and attorney fees, and various parties which can be avoided all together.

To gain a simplified understanding of the probate process in Ohio, let's delve into its key aspects:

1. **Opening the Estate in Probate Court:** The process commences with the filing of a petition with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court in Cleveland or the appropriate probate court in the county where the decedent resided. The petition notifies the court of the decedent's death and requests the appointment of an executor or administrator. All heirs and beneficiaries must be notified of the application.
2. **Appointment of Executor or Administrator:** Unless all heirs consent to appointment, the court may hold a hearing on the application to decide if the applicant is a suitable candidate to serve as fiduciary. The court appoints an executor, if named in the will, or an administrator, if the decedent died without a will. The executor or administrator is responsible for managing the estate's assets and distributing them according to the will or state law.
3. **Inventory and Debt Collection:** The executor or administrator compiles an inventory of the decedent's assets, including property, investments, and debts. They then notify creditors to collect outstanding debts.
4. **Claims Period for Creditors:** Creditors in Ohio have a specific period, typically six to nine months, to file claims against the estate. The executor or administrator must review and evaluate these claims, ensuring they are valid and properly documented.
5. **Payment of Debts and Taxes:** Once claims are validated, the executor or administrator settles outstanding debts, including taxes, using estate assets.
6. **Distribution of Assets to Beneficiaries:** After debts and taxes are settled, the executor or administrator distributes the remaining assets to the beneficiaries as specified in the will or according to Ohio state law.

Timeline Considerations and Costs of Probate in Cleveland and Ohio:

The probate process in Ohio can take anywhere from six months to two years or more to complete, depending on the estate's complexity, the number of creditors, and any disputes or challenges that arise. The average cost of probate in Ohio is 4% of the estate's value plus court costs and expenses.

Minimizing Probate with Estate Planning:

Estate planning offers a proactive approach to asset distribution, minimizing the complexities and potential pitfalls of probate, and reducing associated costs. Strategies include creating a will, establishing a living trust, transfer-on-death beneficiaries, and designating powers of attorney.

Avoiding Probate:

By implementing proper estate planning strategies, you can effectively bypass the probate process, saving time, money, and emotional distress for your loved ones.

Packages, Services, and Fees

Our tiered options range from basic estate arrangements to complex asset management, providing peace of mind for life. All plans include 6 months of free changes.

Family Package

This foundational package offers a straightforward solution for those seeking to secure their estate with essential documents. It's crafted to ensure that families have their wishes honored without the need for probate court proceedings. Key components include a Last Will and Testament, Powers of Attorney with directives for healthcare, finance, and burial.

Single: \$1,500 | Couple: \$1,750

Trust Package

For clients desiring a more robust estate planning strategy, the Trust Plan incorporates all elements of the Family Plan with the addition of a Revocable Living Trust. This option is particularly beneficial for avoiding probate, ensuring privacy, and providing creditor protection. The Trust Plan is ideal for those who wish to create a seamless inheritance experience for their beneficiaries.

Single: \$2,500 | Couple: \$2,750

These packages contain everything you need to accomplish your goals. They're accurate and legally binding with the ability to modify at any time.

Estate Planning Documents	Fee
Will Package – Single	\$1,500
Will Package – Couple	\$1,750
Property Transfer Instruments	
Warranty Deed for trustee or Joint & Survivorship	\$500
Transfer-on-Death Affidavit for Real Estate	\$500
Transfer-on-Death Designation for LLC	\$250
Assignment of LLC Interest to Trustee	\$250
Affidavit of the Death of a Joint Tenant or Co-Trustee	\$500
Complex Estate Planning	
Special / Supplemental Needs Trust	\$2,500+
Irrevocable Trust	\$2,500+
Closely Held Business Planning	\$2,500+
Estate Plan Amendments	
Basic Amendment Fee (not our draft, includes review)	\$499
Change in Fiduciary by Amendment to Trust	\$375
Basic Codicil to Will	\$375
Revocation of Trust	\$375
Revocation of POA, Healthcare POA, or Living Will	\$199
Resignation of Trustee	\$199
Miscellaneous Amendments to Trust or Will	\$325/hr

Terms and Definitions

- **Administrator:** An individual appointed by the court to manage the estate of a deceased person who died without a will.
- **Beneficiary:** A person or entity entitled to receive benefits from a will, trust, retirement account, life insurance policy, or other contract.
- **Bypass Trust:** Also known as a credit shelter trust, it allows for the minimization of estate taxes upon the death of a spouse.
- **Charitable Lead Trust:** A trust that provides income to a charity for a set period, with the remaining assets going to non-charitable beneficiaries.
- **Codicil:** A legal document that modifies provisions in an existing will.
- **Community Property:** A form of joint property ownership typically between spouses that is recognized in some states.
- **Conservator:** A person appointed by a court to manage the estate of an incapacitated adult.
- **Crummey Trust:** A trust that permits beneficiaries to withdraw contributions for a limited time in order to qualify them as gifts for tax purposes.
- **Decedent:** An individual who has passed away.
- **Disclaimer:** The act of refusing to accept an inheritance.
- **Durable Power of Attorney:** A legal document that remains in effect if the person who signed it becomes incapacitated.
- **Estate:** All the property and debts left by an individual at death.
- **Estate Tax:** A tax levied on an individual's estate after their death.
- **Executor:** A person named in a will to administer the estate; known as an "executrix" if female.
- **Fiduciary:** An individual or institution responsible for acting in the best interests of another party.
- **Gift Tax:** A tax on the transfer of assets from one individual to another while the giver is alive.
- **Grantor:** The person who creates a trust.
- **Guardian:** An individual appointed to take care of a minor child or incapacitated adult.
- **Health Care Power of Attorney:** A document appointing someone to make medical decisions on another's behalf if they are unable to do so themselves.
- **Heir:** A person legally entitled to receive property from the estate of a deceased person.
- **Intestate:** Dying without a valid will.
- **Irrevocable Trust:** A trust that, once established, cannot be altered, amended, or revoked.
- **Joint Tenancy:** A form of co-ownership where property passes automatically to the surviving co-owner(s) upon the death of an individual co-owner.
- **Life Estate:** A type of property ownership that lasts for a person's lifetime, after which the property passes to another person.
- **Marital Deduction:** A tax deduction that allows one spouse to transfer an unlimited amount of property to the other spouse tax-free upon death or as a gift during life.
- **Per Stirpes:** A legal term meaning that if a beneficiary predeceases the testator, the beneficiary's share of the inheritance is passed down to their offspring.
- **Power of Attorney:** A legal document that allows one person to act on behalf of another.
- **Probate:** The legal process through which a deceased person's will is validated and the estate is settled.
- **Revocable Trust:** A trust in which the grantor retains the ability to alter, amend, or revoke the trust.
- **Special Needs Trust:** A trust designed to provide benefits to, and protect the assets of, physically or mentally disabled individuals.
- **Testamentary Trust:** A trust that is created by a will and comes into effect after the death of the will's maker.
- **Trust:** An arrangement where one party holds property for the benefit of another.
- **Trustee:** The individual or institution that manages the property held in trust.
- **Unified Credit:** A federal tax credit that offsets gift and estate tax liability.
- **Will:** A legal document in which an individual states their wishes regarding the distribution of their property and the care of any minor children after death.

*Plan for a better tomorrow, today.
Start now.*

Contact Now

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Cleveland, OH 44120**

**Scan with phone
to book a consult.**

