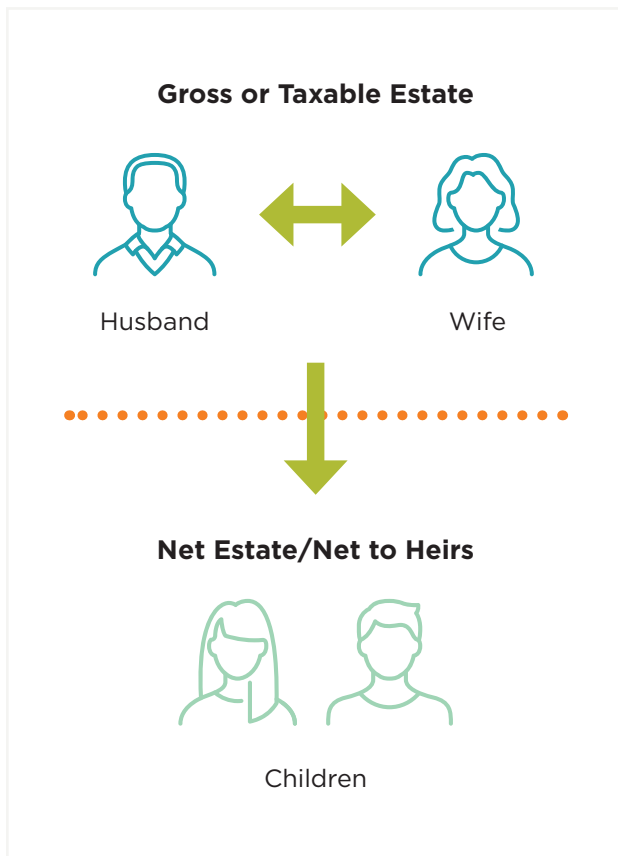


Estate Planning Basics



Estate Planning is structuring what you leave behind and how you choose to leave it. Your personal choices regarding your hard-earned legacy can vary greatly.

The good news is, after careful consideration, many planning objectives are pretty straightforward. The bad news, it's an important project that's too easily put off until "tomorrow." In essence, the main objective is simply to get your assets across the dotted line (see image) with the minimal amount possible claimed by the IRS.

1 Unlimited spousal transfers are allowed.

2 The orange line represents probate and/or taxes of the state/federal variety.

3 Taxes that may be included are:

- Income
- Gift
- Estate
- Generation-skipping

Why planning is important

Your estate can include **cash, real estate, cars, retirement accounts, life insurance, some workplace benefits** – plus more. Some of your assets may pass to your chosen beneficiary through a beneficiary designation or by operation of law – such as a retirement account, life insurance, or annuity. Others may pass based upon ownership.

All of which may lead to some sort of beneficiary friction, which is more common than you think. And some of it can be avoided, by using a trust or perhaps by giving power of attorney to one beneficiary instead.



Contact your financial advisor for more information.

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