



YOUR GUIDE TO

Charitable Estate Planning

www.WatersEdge.com/plan

Steward God's Blessings Wisely

Everything we have is a gift from the Father. Kingdom-minded estate planning acknowledges Christians' roles as stewards of these gifts. We're commanded to use them for His glory during our lifetime and beyond.

An estate plan is a set of essential legal documents that settle critical end-of-life issues. It allows you to pass on possessions according to your wishes, leave instructions for your care if you become ill or incapacitated, choose a guardian for children under

age 18, and support Kingdom causes you care about.

Estate planning can be complicated and expensive, but not with WatersEdge. We simplify the process using online tools and personal guidance from estate planning professionals. Plus, estate planning with WatersEdge is very affordable. While you will still need your own attorney to prepare your documents, we will reimburse a portion of the legal fees associated with the creation of your plan if it includes a qualifying gift to ministry.

How It Works



“Working with WatersEdge to establish my estate plan was easy and a great experience. Now I have peace of mind about my family’s financial future and the blessing of knowing my estate will further the Gospel after I’m gone.”

–Blake G. | Edmond, Oklahoma

Elements Of An Estate Plan

Estate planning is more than just creating a will. Though a last will and testament can be an important part of the estate planning process, an estate plan includes additional documents that provide greater protection for you, your assets, and your family. You also have the option to create a revocable living trust in addition to a will.

Should I Choose A Will Or A Trust?

A last will and testament describes how your assets should be distributed at your passing. It is less expensive to set up but will require court involvement to distribute your assets. A revocable trust is a separate legal entity you create to own your assets now. You retain the right to use the assets however you desire or even to revoke the trust. Creating a trust allows your appointed successor trustee to handle matters after your passing and avoids probate (court involvement).

| Last Will & Testament | VS | Revocable Living Trust |
|--|----|--|
| No change while you are living | | Separate legal entity you create to own your assets and is effective immediately |
| You own your assets | | You transfer your assets to your trust |
| Less expensive to set up | | More expensive to set up |
| More expensive and time consuming after your death | | Less expensive and less time consuming after your death |
| Probate court process required and public record | | Probate not required if all assets owned by the trust |
| You can revise your will | | You can revise your trust |
| You maintain control of your assets | | You maintain control of your assets |

Additional Estate Planning Documents

Financial & Health Care Power Of Attorney

- Allows others to act on your behalf in financial and/or health care matters if you are incapacitated and cannot make decisions for yourself
- Only valid while you are living
- Marriage or joint tenancy ownership does not replace the need for these documents
- Prevents expensive adult guardianship proceedings

Advance Directive For Health Care (Living Will)

- Provides end-of-life instructions concerning the use of life support, ventilators, feeding tubes, resuscitation, etc.
- Designated person can be named to communicate with doctors on your behalf
- Allows for organ donation

Why Do I Need An Estate Plan?

An estate plan is important for every adult regardless of age, income, or marital status. Though it may imply wealth, “estate” is simply the term for the possessions you leave behind at your death.



Pass on Your Possessions

Who will inherit your assets when you die? Without an estate plan, decisions to distribute your property are left to the state.



Impact Ministry

Our greatest opportunity to make a significant financial impact comes when we die. Charitable gifts made through your estate plan allow you to support ministries you care about, advancing the Gospel for generations to come.



Safeguard Young Children

Individuals and couples with dependent children (under age 18) must choose a guardian who will provide care in the event of the parent(s) death. Without an estate plan, the state will decide who raises your children.



Specify Healthcare Wishes

If illness or severe injury left you incapacitated and unable to speak for yourself, what decisions do you want made about emergency medical treatments like ventilators, feeding tubes and other forms of life support?



Prevent Family Conflict

Unfortunately, disputes over possessions are common when a family member passes away without a will to distribute their assets. An estate plan, which includes a will, helps reduce this possibility by detailing how your possessions should be divided.



Avoid Probate

Probate is the court process that resolves a person’s estate after they die. This includes paying debts, filing tax returns, and distributing property to beneficiaries and heirs. Probate is required for distribution of assets pursuant to a will. You can spare loved ones this hassle by creating a trust as part of your estate plan.

Create Or Update Your Estate Plan In 4 Simple Steps

1 Complete the Estate Planning Guidebook

Our comprehensive guidebook will help you think through important estate planning decisions and gather relevant information, all from the comfort of your home or office. Visit WatersEdge.com/plan to complete the guidebook online, download a PDF, or request a paper copy.

2 Connect with Our Estate Planning Professionals

Once you've submitted your guidebook, we'll review it and reach out to schedule an appointment, if needed, to answer questions or complete any missing information.

3 Finalize Your Plan

Next, we'll send your guidebook to an attorney of your choice who will draft your documents. You will then work directly with your attorney to complete and sign your estate plan.

(Don't have an attorney? We'll provide a list of trusted estate planning attorneys at your request.)

4 Get Reimbursement

WatersEdge will reimburse up to \$500 of the legal fees associated with creating or updating your estate plan if it includes a qualifying gift for the benefit of a partnering ministry of your choice (see details below).

Reimbursement Policy

The most common way to qualify for legal fee reimbursement is to leave a gift in your estate plan of at least ten percent (10%) of your estate (or an amount of \$50,000 or greater) to WatersEdge for the benefit of qualified charities, at least fifty percent (50%) of which is for the benefit of an approved Ministry Partner. See a list of WatersEdge Ministry Partners at WatersEdge.com/MinistryPartners.



“The estate planning process was easy, and it helped me put things in order. I would definitely recommend WatersEdge to anyone considering going through that process. I've always wanted to help as many people as I could, and that's been my whole goal. Now, with this plan, I know I'm making a difference.”

– Wilma B. | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Why Plan With WatersEdge?

With a myriad of estate planning options available, what makes the WatersEdge estate planning experience unique?



Focus on Giving Back

Our estate planning experience is offered to those who not only have a desire to provide for their families, but also to give back to God when they die. This can be done by supporting Christian churches and ministries working to transform lives with the Gospel.



Legal Fee Reimbursement

WatersEdge will reimburse up to \$500 of your attorney's fees associated with creating or updating your estate plan if it includes a qualifying gift for the benefit of a partnering ministry of your choice (see details on previous page). Estate plans completed through WatersEdge are very affordable when using one of our referral attorneys.



Experience

For more than 70 years our estate planning professionals have helped thousands of individuals and families create and update plans that protect families and support ministry.



“We’d be fools not to create an estate plan, in a lot of ways. It benefits our child and future children, our families, and even benefits either one of us in case something happens. WatersEdge really communicated that it’s about stewardship and taking care of the things God has given us to use for His Kingdom.”

– Will & Cady B. | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

We're Here To Help

Navigating the complexities of estate planning and charitable giving isn't easy. Whether deciphering the alphabet soup of acronyms and terms or discerning the latest tax code changes, we're here to help. Let our team of professionals be your guide as you plan for your future and practice biblical generosity that transforms lives with the Gospel.



Julie Stanley, JD, CPA
Vice President, Advancement
jstanley@WatersEdge.com
405-605-4202



Jake Vanderslice, CEP
Director of Estate Planning
jvanderslice@WatersEdge.com
405-605-4248



Wendell Lang
Director of Ministry Relations
wlang@WatersEdge.com
405-605-4269



Aaron Lokey
Director of Ministry Relations
alokey@WatersEdge.com
405-605-4210



Jessica Hutchings
Advancement Project Manager
jhutchings@WatersEdge.com
405-605-4205

Frequently Asked Questions

Estate Planning Basics

What Is An Estate?

Though the word may imply wealth, “estate” is simply the term for the possessions you leave behind at your death. This includes material assets like your home or other real estate, business interests, bank accounts, vehicles, retirement savings, life insurance, collectibles, and personal belongings.

Who Needs An Estate Plan?

An estate plan is important for every adult regardless of age, income, or marital status.

How Is An Estate Plan Different From A Will?

An estate plan is more comprehensive than a will and provides greater protection for you, your assets and your heirs. It allows you to plan not just for death, but also for a time when you are not able to manage your affairs. Also known as a last will and testament, a will is part of your estate plan and details your wishes for passing on your possessions at your death. Additionally, if applicable, a will can designate who will care for any minor children you leave behind.

A will does not include other important safeguards that detail your wishes in the event you are critically injured or ill and unable to make decisions for yourself. Estate planning documents that apply to these concerns include the Healthcare Power of Attorney, the Financial Power of Attorney, and the Advance Directive for Health Care.

If desired, your estate plan may also include the creation of a trust, which avoids probate in most circumstances.

What Is A Personal Representative?

Also known as the “Executor” of your estate, a Personal Representative is the individual you assign in your Last Will and Testament to oversee the distribution of your possessions in accordance with your wishes. This person is often a spouse, adult child or other trusted friend or family member, but it can be any third party that you think would do a good job in that capacity.

What Is Probate?

Probate is the court process that your beneficiaries must go through in order to transfer

ownership of your assets after you have passed away. This includes retitling possessions like homes, vehicles, and bank accounts, as well as paying any outstanding debts and taxes. In many states, probate is a court-supervised process that may be costly and time consuming. A well-crafted estate plan that includes a trust may allow your beneficiaries to avoid probate.

What Is The Cost Of Creating Or Updating My Estate Plan Through WatersEdge?

There is no cost for working with our WatersEdge estate planning professionals, though the attorney who drafts your documents will charge a fee for his or her services. If you leave a qualifying gift in your plan, WatersEdge will reimburse up to \$500 of your attorney's fees. Depending on the complexity of your estate plan, this reimbursement may cover some or all of the fees associated with creating or updating your plan.

Am I Required To Leave A Gift To Ministry If I Create Or Update My Estate Plan Through WatersEdge?

Our purpose is to financially empower donors and ministries to transform lives with the Gospel. If you are not interested in leaving a gift to ministry, we can refer you to an attorney who will guide you through the estate planning process.

How Long Does The Estate Planning Process Take?

Individuals and families may complete the estate planning process in 4 to 8 weeks, depending on the attorney's case load and the time you take reviewing the proposed documents. The process can be expedited under special or emergency circumstances. Please contact the WatersEdge estate planning team at 800-949-9988 ext 852 or estateplan@WatersEdge.com if you have an urgent need to create or update an estate plan.

Does WatersEdge Draft My Estate Planning Documents For Me?

No. A member of the WatersEdge estate planning team will guide you through the estate planning process and educate you about the options that may be best for your and your family's needs. Once this process is complete, we prepare your information, send it to an attorney who will draft the documents of your estate plan, and provide additional advice, as needed.

What If I Don't Have An Attorney To Draft My Estate Planning Documents?

We will provide you with a list of trusted estate planning attorneys who can assist you with drafting your documents.

Do I Have To Be A Member Of A Southern Baptist Church To Create Or Update My Estate Plan Through WatersEdge?

No. Membership in a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention is not required to create or update an estate plan with WatersEdge. However, in order to work with our estate planning professionals and to receive legal fee reimbursement from WatersEdge, the charitable gift included with your estate plan must be designated to WatersEdge for the benefit of one of our Ministry Partners.

Will The Personal Information I Share In The Estate Planning Process Be Kept Private?

Yes. Outside of WatersEdge staff, your personal information is shared only with the attorney selected to draft your estate planning documents. WatersEdge does not share, sell, or distribute your personal information with any other party.

Is My Personal Information Safe If I Choose To Use The Online Estate Planning Guidebook?

Yes. Your personal information is encrypted throughout every stage of the online process.

Updating Your Estate Plan

How Often Should I Update My Estate Plan?

We recommend reviewing your plan every 5-10 years. However, there are also specific life events that may warrant a revision, such as marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or grandchild, the death of a spouse, child or grandchild, or when your children are no longer dependents.

What If I Already Have An Estate Plan With WatersEdge But Want To Review Or Change It?

Please make an appointment or contact our estate planning team at 800-949-9988 ext 852 or estateplan@WatersEdge.com. We will provide you with a copy of your current plan and assist you with any updates.

Can WatersEdge Help Me Update My Estate Plan If It Was Created Through Another Attorney Or Organization (Not Affiliated With WatersEdge)?

Yes, as long as your revision includes a qualifying charitable gift to WatersEdge for the benefit of a Ministry Partner, we will assist you and offer our legal fee reimbursement.

Legal Fee Reimbursement

How Do I Qualify For Legal Fee Reimbursement?

WatersEdge will reimburse up to \$500 of your legal fees if your estate plan includes a gift to WatersEdge, at least 50 percent (5%) of which is for the benefit of an approved Ministry Partner of your choice.

- If you wish to specify a percentage of your estate as a gift to ministry, then the percentage must be at least ten percent (10%) of your estate to qualify for legal fee reimbursement.
- If you wish to specify a specific dollar amount from your estate as a gift to ministry, then the amount must be \$50,000 or greater to qualify for legal fee reimbursement.
- If you wish to make an immediate, current gift to WatersEdge for the benefit of ministry, then the amount must be \$10,000 or greater to qualify for legal fee reimbursement.

Ask the WatersEdge estate planning team about other giving options that can qualify your estate plan for legal fee reimbursement, including gifts made through a retirement account or life insurance.

What Is The Maximum Reimbursement Provided? What If My Legal Fees Exceed The Maximum?

WatersEdge will reimburse up to \$500 in legal fees associated with creating or updating your estate plan. This may cover all or most of the fees associated with most plans. However, for more complex estate plans, and those including a revocable trust, it is common for legal fees to exceed the \$500 reimbursement threshold. In this case, you are responsible for paying the difference.

What If The Ministry Or Organization I Want To Support Is Not Listed As A WatersEdge Ministry Partner?

Not all WatersEdge Ministry Partners are listed on our website, so you may need to ask our estate planning team. We frequently add new Ministry Partners, including some like-minded ministries not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. However, if you desire to support a ministry or organization whose purpose or ideology conflicts with Southern Baptists' core beliefs as expressed in The Baptist Faith and Message, we may be unable to assist you.



“I think having an estate plan is important because God has given us stewardship over our lives, and we want to honor and glorify Him in every aspect. This is something that everybody needs to do. Don't put it off.”

– Ryan S. | Broken Arrow, OK



GET STARTED AT

*WatersEdge.com/plan | 800-949-9988 ext. 852
estateplan@WatersEdge.com*