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TOP FIVE REASONS TO HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN

- 1) PROVIDE FOR YOUR FAMILY- Couples want to provide for their surviving spouse or partner and also provide for their children. The situation can be complex if you are part of a blended family. If you have children under the age of 18, having an estate plan gives you the opportunity to nominate a guardian should both of you die. Not nominating a guardian means that a court will decide who will make important decisions and take care of your children. You may also have a disabled family member who you would like to support when you are no longer here. This can be done with a properly prepared special needs trust.
- 2) PLAN FOR INCAPACITY- While we may be living longer, this also means that we need the tools to plan for incapacity. Having the right tools such as power of attorney for financial management and health care means that you and your family will have a legal safety net if the time comes.
- 3) EASE STRAIN OR LESSEN BURDEN ON FAMILY-Having an estate plan means that you will ease the burden on family members. Your estate plan will provide a road map for your grieving family members so when the time comes, all they need to do is follow the road map.
- 4) HELP A FAVORITE CAUSE-You can help a charitable organization that is near and dear to your heart by having the appropriate provision in your will or trust. This will not only help your favorite organization(s) but, will also take advantage of tax laws that promote philanthropy.
- 5) MINIMIZE EXPOSURE TO TAX-Having the right estate plan can help minimize your estate's exposure to tax and help you provide for family. The State of Washington has an estate tax as well as our federal government.