**Estate Planning**

Presented by Douglas L. Burgess, Attorney

1. **Introduction** and Overview
   1. Introduce Doug Burgess and what we will go over today
   2. Why Plan?
   3. What is the first step in planning?
   4. How to streamline matters for your survivor?
   5. How to maximize cash flow and minimize costs for you and your survivor……using the latest and simplest estate planning techniques……
2. **Dying without a Will** (or estate planning) in Maryland. What type of difficulties does this present for my relatives?
3. **What to do** to plan your estate
   1. I just want the essentials and then I can build from there
      * + **Simplest Method – Meet with a Financial Planner**– Meet with a financial planner and get your finances organized and in order.
        + **Catastrophic** Events – Are **my life, disability, health, auto and home insurance policies** and **beneficiary designations** in place? Nothing can wipe you or your survivor out quicker than a sudden unplanned event
        + **Legal Documents in Place -**  Wills, Powers of Attorney, Advance Directive for Health Care
        + **Will Alternatives**- Revocable Living Trusts

Pros and Cons

Important: reduces probate (estate admin fees) but not estate taxes!!!!

* + - * **Transition Binder –** have key documents been assembled for quick access if there is a need for a transition

1. **Death Taxes and Your Action Plan**
   1. Do I need to worry about federal estate tax? Answer: probably not ($5 M + exemption)
   2. Do I need to worry about Maryland estate or inheritance tax? Answer: maybe
      1. Maryland estate taxes - assessed on estates over $ 2 Million Dollars at graduated rate of 16%// $ 2 million dollar estate + will have about a bill (the law will be changing)
      2. How to handle the Md Estate tax- disclaimer or by pass trust within your will or revocable trust………………. Or………………Gifting…….. or Life Insurance
      3. Life Insurance and irrevocable life insurance trusts
   3. Do I need to worry about Maryland Inheritance tax - probably not
      1. Not applicable unless you bequeathing to others than your kids or siblings, then its 10 %
2. **What if I die in a Nursing Home and my dear kids who have cared for me will have nothing**
   1. Life Insurance and certain Annuities may not be a Medical Assistance resource
   2. Other Elder law planning
3. **Closing Thoughts**