

Viewpoint of Jeanne M. Kerkstra, Esq., CPA

“A Parent’s Job is Never Done”

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In our busy lives, there are certain decisions that we, as parents, should make, never delegate. Choosing our children’s guardians is one of them.

Imagine if you were not here for them. Who would make the decisions to care for them? Well, anyone with minor children should have, at a minimum, a Will in place that names guardians. These are your agents who care for your children – both for their physical well-being (e.g., guardian of the person) and for their financial well-being (e.g., guardian of the estate).

If you don’t make these decisions and you pass away, a judge will make these decisions for you. Understand that most judges are sensitive to these critical decisions and take pains to make the right choice. However, they simply are not you. They don’t know intimately your children, family and friends. Only you have the insight into truly what’s best for your children.

Take the time to have a Will drafted for you. For privacy and to avoid probate, re-title your assets into a Revocable Trust. These two critical steps will ensure your guiding hand in your children’s lives no matter what.

As an estate planning attorney for over twenty years, I have seen a lot. Call me today to schedule an appointment to start on your estate plan to ensure your children’s care.

Jeanne M. Kerkstra, Esq., CPA • Kerkstra Law Offices LLC • Problem? Solved.®
(Office) 312/427-0493 • (Cell) 312/285-9147 • (Fax) 888/511-4385 • jmk@kerkstralaw.com

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