

From the desk of Jeanne M. Kerkstra, Esq.

**Viewpoint
In Loving Memory Of...**

A couple of days ago, Australian Steve Irwin (a/k/a Croc Hunter) died in a tragic, freak accident when a Stingray barb pierced his chest. A tragic loss. At the other end of the spectrum, photos of Baby Suri Cruise (Tom and Katie's little girl) are now splashed across the cover of a magazine. Life, death and everything in between.

If your hands are full, feel blessed. On your one hand, it would seem incredible if you could count five close, trusted friends. On the other hand, it brings some order to your life if you have the five basic estate planning documents: (1) Living Trust (a/k/a Revocable Trust). You are in control as long as you are alive and competent; (2) Pour-Over Will; (3) Property Power of Attorney; (4) Health Care Power of Attorney; and (5) Living Will. If you are worth a lot of money, then you would need more than just the basic estate planning documents in order to achieve tax savings. However, feel blessed for those headaches.

Basic estate planning is just that. It is good-sense planning. It is not a means to an end. You get your estate in order and continue to enjoy life. I often thought that George Burns' downfall was his breaking up with Brooke Shields. He might still be around and kicking had it not been for that.

Say goodnight Gracie. "Goodnight Gracie."

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