

Preparing for Marriage: Focusing on your Legal Needs

Congratulations! You're getting married.

Now, it's time to think about how marriage changes your legal relationship with your soon-to-be spouse. There are many issues you may want to address, and an attorney can help you to address your concerns and will also help you to plan for your future with confidence.

Some of the documents you may wish to have prepared are the following:

- **Will** (naming your spouse as your agent and/or personal representative)
- **Power of Attorney for Health Care** (allowing your spouse can make health care decisions for you when you're unavailable to do so)
- **General Durable Power of Attorney** (allows your spouse to transact for you financially)
- **Marital Property Agreement** (also known as a "Prenuptial Agreement" or "Antenuptial Agreement," keeping separate property separate or commingling all your property)

Having these documents prepared is especially important if you have pre-marital assets (such as a family business), and also if you have children from a previous relationship.

It is also very important to have a Will, Power of Attorney for Health Care, and General Durable Power of Attorney prepared to protect not only your spouse, but your children as well. In a Will document, you can name who will be the Guardian of your children if you and your spouse are not able to take care of your children.

If you don't prepare a Will and something happens to you and your spouse, the courts will have no guidance as to what your wishes were, or who should take care of your children. It is very wise to take this proactive step to protect your family.

So, make sure you take the proper steps to plan for your future. You will gain tremendous peace of mind by consulting with an estate planning attorney to prepare these documents for you. We hope we can help you.



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*Specializing in Estate Planning,
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