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## **Estate Planning: What Are Your Options?**

- Wills. Everyone needs one, but a Will does not need be scary or complicated! As
  of 2022, a Caring.com survey indicated that TWO-THIRDS of American adults still
  do not have a Last Will and Testament to help their families settle final affairs and
  leave instructions regarding last wishes.
- Power of Attorney (Medical and Financial). Who will help you pay bills or talk to your doctors on your behalf, if you cannot do it for yourself anymore?
- Advanced Directive (aka "Living Will"). How would you like to be cared for, if you
  are ever terminally ill? This document helps to make sure that your doctors and
  loved ones honor your wishes.
- Community Property Agreement. If you are married, a Community Property Agreement might save you thousands of dollars in probate fees, if you or your spouse pass away.
- Living Trusts: Can be a good option if your privacy is very important to you. A
  Living Trust helps you avoid probate and allows property to be distributed directly to
  your loved ones without going to court. A Trust costs more to set up than a will and
  require maintenance and selecting the right trustee.
- Care and Maintenance of Your Estate Plan: Once you have your place in place, remember to review your documents yearly to make sure nothing needs updating.