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ESTATE PLANNING HEALTH CHECK

Estate Planning Health Check

A practical self-assessment to help you identify gaps, questions and next steps.

1 - My will and executors	Yes	No	Unsure
I have a valid will that reflects my current family, assets and intentions	☐	☐	☐
I have reviewed my will after major life changes such as marriage, separation, a birth, death, retirement or a significant change in wealth.	☐	☐	☐
My chosen executor is willing and capable, and I have appointed at least one suitable substitute.	☐	☐	☐
My will addresses what should happen if a beneficiary dies before me or my preferred plan cannot be carried out.	☐	☐	☐

2 - What I own, and how it will transfer	Yes	No	Unsure
I have an up-to-date list of my significant assets, liabilities and ownership structures.	☐	☐	☐
I understand which assets will pass under my will and which may pass outside it, including jointly owned assets, superannuation, trusts and insurance.	☐	☐	☐
My family or executor could locate important documents, account details and professional advisers if required.	☐	☐	☐
I have considered how practical issues such as an indivisible property, tax consequences or debt, may affect an equal or fair distribution.	☐	☐	☐

3 - Superannuation and life insurance	Yes	No	Unsure
I know who is currently nominated to receive my superannuation and any associated life insurance.	☐	☐	☐
I know whether my nomination is binding, non-binding, lapsing or non-lapsing under my fund's rules.	☐	☐	☐
My superannuation nomination and will have been reviewed together so they support the same overall plan.	☐	☐	☐
I have reviewed my nominations after changes to my relationships, dependants or financial position.	☐	☐	☐

4 - Family gifts, loans and early inheritances	Yes	No	Unsure
Any substantial financial help given to family members is clearly documented as a gift, loan or advance against inheritance.	☐	☐	☐
The arrangement records whether repayment is expected and what happens on separation, death, incapacity or sale of an assisted property.	☐	☐	☐
I have considered whether lifetime assistance should be taken into account when my estate is divided.	☐	☐	☐
I have tested whether I can afford the assistance after allowing for retirement, health and possible aged-care needs.	☐	☐	☐

5 - Planning for incapacity	Yes	No	Unsure
I have current documents appointing trusted people to make financial and personal or health decisions if I cannot.	☐	☐	☐
The people appointed understand my wishes, their responsibilities and where the documents are kept.	☐	☐	☐
I have considered whether my attorneys can manage complex assets, a business, trusts or property if required.	☐	☐	☐
My plan gives appropriate people authority to deal with practical decisions such as paying expenses, managing investments or arranging care.	☐	☐	☐

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6 - Protecting beneficiaries and reducing conflict	Yes	No	Unsure
I have considered whether any beneficiary may need protection because of age, vulnerability, disability, financial inexperience, relationship risks or creditor exposure.	☐	☐	☐
I have considered whether a testamentary trust or another protective structure is appropriate, rather than an outright gift.	☐	☐	☐
Any unequal treatment, significant lifetime gifts or important family decisions are clearly documented and capable of explanation.	☐	☐	☐
My plan takes account of blended-family relationships, dependants and people who may have a claim on the estate.	☐	☐	☐

7 - Businesses, companies and trusts	Yes	No	Unsure
My estate plan deals with personally owned shares, business interests and loans owed to or by me.	☐	☐	☐
I have separately considered who will control companies, family trusts and other structures after my death or incapacity.	☐	☐	☐
Any shareholders' agreement, buy-sell arrangement, insurance or succession plan is aligned with my will.	☐	☐	☐
The business could continue operating, or be sold in an orderly way, if I were suddenly unavailable.	☐	☐	☐

8 - Practical readiness and review	Yes	No	Unsure
My original will and other key documents are stored safely and can be found when needed.	☐	☐	☐
My executor or a trusted person knows where to find a summary of my assets, liabilities, digital accounts and adviser details.	☐	☐	☐
I have recorded wishes that do not belong in the will itself, such as funeral preferences or guidance about personal items.	☐	☐	☐
I know which life events should trigger a review, and I have a realistic date for my next estate planning check-up.	☐	☐	☐

Consider seeking advice promptly if:

- You do not have a current will or incapacity documents
- Your family circumstances have changed
- A superannuation nomination has expired or may not reflect your intentions
- You have made a significant undocumented gift or loan
- You own or control a business, company, family trust or SMSF
- A beneficiary may need additional protection; or
- You are approaching retirement, considering aged care or planning a major transfer of wealth

Uncomplicated Advice

Bespoke Solutions

We're here to help

Certe specialises in:

- Strategic Advice & Scenario Analysis
- Wealth and Investment Management Solutions
- Superannuation & Retirement Planning
- Personal and group insurance

We work closely with estate planning specialists at our partner firm Yarra Lane to help ensure your wishes are documented and your wealth is passed on as intended.

Speak with an adviser today

connect@certe.com.au

(02) 9132 5900

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This checklist is general educational information only and is not legal, financial, tax or aged-care advice. Estate planning laws and document names vary between Australian states and territories. Your plan should be prepared and reviewed for your personal circumstances.