# Death, Disability, and Retirement....Now What?

Lori-Ann Rickard, JD, CPC



### Rickard S Associates, P.C.

Grosse Pointe Plaza 22725 Greater Mack Ave. Building B, Suite 101 St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 586-498-0600

Website: www.larlegal.com Email: Larickard@larlegal.com



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### Do I Need a Board of Directors?



- Term I use to describe your advisors
  - Lawyer
  - Accountant
  - Financial planner
  - Estate planner
- Rely on these people to build your knowledge

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#### Retirement

- Take steps to protect yourself and your family:
  - Legally
    - Adequate insurance
    - Liabilities
  - Financially
    - Investments



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### Liability Continues After Retirement

- Malpractice
- Entity
- Creditors
- Accounts
- Vendors
- Premises liability
- Employee issues
- Lawsuits



### How to Protect Yourself and Your Practice?



- Have good contracts in place and know how to terminate them
- Have sufficient tail-coverage
- Notify patients, colleagues, and employees well in advance and have a plan to wind-up your practice

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### Selling your practice?

- Ownership restrictions
- Transfer of entity
- Patient notifications
- Transfer of medical records
- Transition planning
- Comply with laws and regulations



# Winding Up Dissolve the Legal Entity Notify creditors and vendors Settle accounts Consult board of directors Office logistics – leases, medical equipment, utilities, mail forwarding, etc. Payroll, employee benefits, etc.



### Prior To...

- Insurance Coverage
- Temporary v permanent disability
- Available accommodations?
- Employed?
  - What does your contract say?
  - Policies and procedures?



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### Ensure that Your Estate Plan is Updated



- Medical Documents
- Spouse, trustee, loved one have passwords, access, etc.

### **Upon Disability**

- Temporary or Final?
- Meet with your advisors
- Meet with employer
- Make a plan
- Determine future career plan, if permanently disabled



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# Know Your Corporate Structure ©Rickard & Associates, P.C. 2025

### Important When Retiring or Upon Death and Disability

- If you have your own corporation, know your documents
- If setting up a corporation, be cognizant
- Corporate documents likely mention retirement, disability and death



### Keep your documents up to date!

- Corporations and LLCs can lapse
- Issues arise



### **Buy Sell Agreements**

- Does the physician have appropriate transferring documents in place?
- Impact on employees, patients and practice?



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## Physician Employment Contracts

### **Employed Physicians**



- Protections for disabilities?
- Timelines? (disabled for 60 days, terminated, etc.)
- Disability insurance?
- Life insurance?

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# Asset Protection ©Rickard & Associates, P.C. 2025

### **Asset Protection for Physicians**



- Starts at formation of business entity or Employment Agreement
- PCs, PLLCs, etc.
- Know the terms that apply and governing documents
- Draft Buy Sell and founding documents to protect the practice

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#### **Asset Protection**

- Equipment leases, real estate leases, office documents and security
- Practice buy-in agreements
- Insurance (malpractice, tail, umbrella, cyber, etc.)
- Prenuptial agreements
- Consider irrevocable trust



### For Medical Field, Asset Protection Includes



- Compliance Plan
- HIPAA Risk Assessment
- Physical and technical security
- Adherence to all regulations and laws
- Proper documentation

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# Business Succession Planning ©Rickard & Associates, P.C. 2025

### **Business Succession Planning**

- If you own your own practice, need to plan for future
- Buy-sell agreements
- Future planning
- Plan early to avoid issues



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### Have a Plan Early



- Know exactly what will happen if someone wants to retire from your practice, if someone dies, or if someone becomes disabled
- Decide on day 1

# Estate Planning ©Rickard & Associates, P.C. 2025

### **Estate Planning**



- Domestic Asset Protection Trust
- Protect assets from creditors
- Legacy planning
- Incapacity planning

### What is Estate Planning?

- Process of planning for your own incapacity or inability to make financial and healthcare decisions
- Plan for personal matters
- Guardianship of minor children
- Transfer property at death
- Plan for taxes
- More



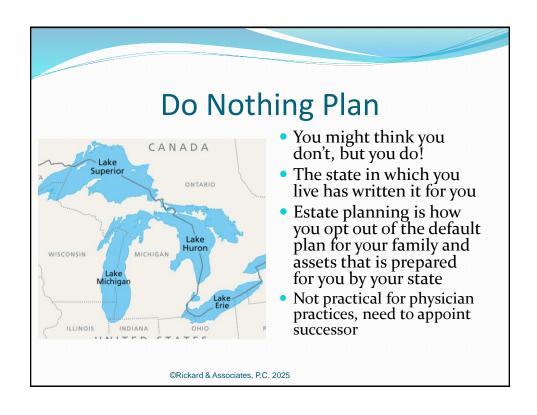
### What is an Estate?

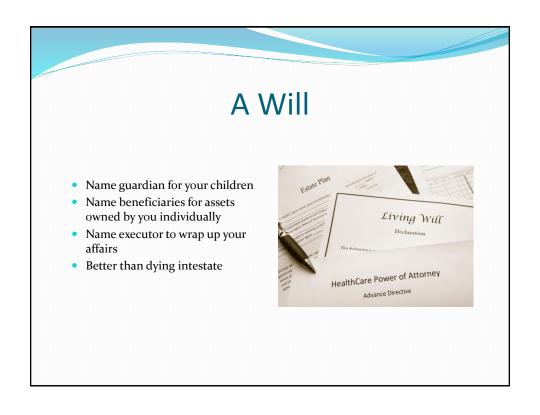


- Everything you own
- Bank accounts
- Vehicles
- Stocks & Bonds
- Life insurance
- House, other real property
- IRAs, 401(k)s
- Business interests
- Possible inheritance









### **Probate**

- · Court process
- Expensive
  - Expect to lose 5-10+% of assets
- · Lengthy process
- Complex
- Judge makes decisions



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### **Probate is Public**



 Public - your will becomes a public record for everyone to see – including exspouses, creditors, disgruntled family members, etc.

### **Revocable Living Trust**



- Will substitute
- Does everything most people thinks a Will does
- Decides who gets what, when you die
- But also, helpful during life
- Determines what happens if spouse dies first

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### Revocable Living Trust continued...

- Name beneficiaries for your assets in the Trust
- Trust is revocable you can change or amend
- You are Trustee during your lifetime, have total control if competent
- Everything in your trust avoids probate



#### Irrevocable Trust

- Similar to revocable trust, but set in stone
- Many of same advantages, with additional protections
- You are NOT the Trustee
- Cannot be changed or amended



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### Irrevocable Trust continued...



- Can protect against the nursing home problem
- Can be more costly
- File tax returns every year
- Can be a great tool for business protection
- Liability protection

### **Power of Attorney**



- Other documents are essential in your estate plan
- Medical Durable Power of Attorney
  - Appoint the person to make medical decisions on your behalf, when you cannot
- Financial Power of Attorney
  - Appoint the person to make financial decisions on your behalf, when you cannot

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### **Benefits of Trusts**

- Protect family, assets, medical care and decisionmaking
- Can shield from liability
- Business ownership can be insulated and transferred through trusts
- Avoid probate



### **GOAL: Protection in all Areas**

- Everything should work together
- Need your estate plan done
- Need adequate insurance
- Need a business succession plan, including good corporate documents, buy sells, etc.
- Need good contracts with employer, employees, vendors, etc.
- Need good policies and procedures



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### In Summary....

- Death
  - Estate plan
  - Life insurance
  - Corporate documents
- Disability
  - Employment agreement
  - Medical/financial power of attorneys and Trust
  - Insurance
- Retirement
  - Planning with financial planner and lawyer
  - Insurance



### Any Questions?

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