



BOB CARLSON'S

Retirement Watch
SPOTLIGHT SERIES

An Overlooked Estate Planning Essential: Don't Leave a Mess for Loved Ones to Clean Up



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The Power of Information

- **A major estate plan gap**
- **Protects your health, comfort, assets**
- **Don't assume they know**
- **Avoid an expensive, painful mess**
- **Take action now**
- **Can they answer these questions?**



What Is Your Personal Information?

- **Full name**
- **Birth date, SSN, Medicare card, veterans info**
- **Previous addresses, parents' names**
- **Any personal ID info**
- **Make copies of documents**



Who Can Make Decisions?

- Estate plan includes life events
- POA, advance medical directive, etc.
- Medical information -- comprehensive
- Documents and details
- Keep it all updated

It doesn't do any good if no one knows about it and where to find it



What Insurance Do You Have?

- **Need comprehensive list**
- **All the details plus documents**
- **Life insurance especially important**
- **Don't forget employer and veterans coverage**



Do You Have LTC Preferences?

- **Where do you want to live?**
 - **Home with assistance or other residence?**
 - **How will that be done?**
- **Geographic location? Have you looked?**
- **What about spouse?**



How Will LTC Be Paid?

- **Do you have insurance?**
- **Adequate liquid resources?**
- **Qualify for Medicaid?**
- **Aid and assistance?**
- **What is your plan?**



Which Estate Plan Documents Do You Have?

- **Will, living trust**
- **Assets, liabilities**
- **Digital assets and accounts**
- **Written inventory, instructions**
- **Safe deposit boxes**



Where Are the Documents?

Not everyone needs these answers:

- **Where are they located?**
- **Do key players have copies?**
- **Contact info on professionals**



What About Personal Items?

- **Collections**
- **Mementoes**
- **Special items**
- **Do they have monetary value?**
- **Details about handling them**
- **Who should get them?**
- **Avoid disputes**



What Final Arrangements Do You Prefer?

- **Burial and service preferences**
- **Aid and comfort to survivors**
- **Not binding in many states**
- **Preferred obituary**
- **Whom to contact**