

ESTATE PLANNING GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Beneficiary

A person designated to receive income or assets in a will or trust.

Estate Planning

Orderly arrangement of assets and a plan for conveying them to heirs and others in a manner calculated to minimize taxes, expenses and delays.

Grantor

The person who establishes a trust. Also called a Settlor.

Gross Estate

Total dollar value of all one's property for estate tax purposes.

Guardian

A person who is legally responsible for managing the affairs and the care of a minor or incompetent person.

Intestate

Dying without a will.

Irrevocable

When applied to a trust indicates, it cannot be changed or canceled.

Marital Deduction

A federal estate tax deduction for property received by the deceased's spouse.

Probate Court

A specialized court in each state set up to handle the management of wills, estates of persons dying without a will, and other functions, such as guardianships.

Taxable Estate

Gross estate less deductions such as marital and charitable deductions, debts and administrative expenses.

Trustee

Person or institution empowered to manage trust property according to instructions contained in the trust agreement.

Will

Basic Document for transferring property to successors through probate court.