

Call Us First!

3 REASONS TO CONTACT US AFTER A LOSS

If you have planned with us, you've heard us say how important it is for your family to call us after you've passed — before doing *anything* else. We mean it when we say this, too, because failing to contact us right away can result in unnecessary headaches and expenses for your loved ones.

We offer a **FREE** initial appointment when a loved one passes because we want to ensure everyone in the family completely understands the appropriate next steps and upcoming deadlines they'll face in the coming weeks. And, in the case of couples, we offer your family this free appointment for the second death as well.

So, before doing anything else after a loved one passes, call us *first* for the following three reasons.

No. 1: We prepared your trust, so we understand the unique next steps needed to fulfill your wishes properly.

After someone passes, there are very precise steps we must take to meet necessary deadlines and avoid tax consequences. Since we were the ones who created your estate plan with avoiding these tax consequences in mind, we know exactly what to do with your estate to ensure your family receives as much of it as possible.



"... failing to contact us right away can result in unnecessary headaches and expenses for your loved ones."

No. 2: Many financial institutions have tricky red tape.

A common mistake many people make when a loved one passes is to immediately call the bank or a stockbroker to access funds. This can result in the institution freezing accounts they shouldn't or causing the tax consequences we discussed earlier. Because of our experience, we know the "easy way" to communicate with these institutions, access funds, and avoid consequences rather than the "hard way."

No. 3: We can assist your family through the entire process.

Dealing with the logistics of a family member's passing can be challenging, with many moving parts and possibilities for critical errors. That's why 90% of the families we serve often ask us to take care of everything when their loved one passes, which we're happy to do. For a flat fee, we'll use our insider knowledge and extensive experience to handle everything for your family. We'll relieve them of the responsibility of all the complicated extra work and put it on our shoulders instead.

At Frank & Kraft, we've been helping over 6,200 Central Indiana families for 33 years, meaning we're *extremely* familiar with the best ways to assist families after their loved one passes away. So, do your family a favor and tell them to call us at 317-684-1100 before doing *anything* else after you pass. We promise it'll make all the difference.

-Paul Kraft



Want to Protect Your Assets?

Avoid These Inclusions in Your Will

When creating your will, you may be tempted to include directions for every single piece of your property and every personal wish that you have. This instinct makes sense, but the “better safe than sorry” approach can actually come back to bite you!

In truth, you’re better off leaving some personal properties and directives out of your will. Adding these specific things to your document could backfire. Instead of successfully protecting your assets, you’ll leave an enormous mess behind for your loved ones.

We’d hate to see that happen, so we’ve put together a list of the things you should never include if you want to keep your legacy safe. Here are the top four.

- 1. Your Business** — You must never add your business to your will. All wills must go through a probate process, which can take a significant amount of time. Not only can the time delay cause issues with your business, but this probate process also opens the door for someone to challenge your will and whatever wishes you intend for your business. You don’t want your will or the company you worked so hard to operate to be subject to this challenge. Instead, work with your lawyer to create a business succession agreement to bypass these problems entirely.



- 2. Your Funeral Wishes and Preferences** — You should avoid placing your funeral wishes and preferences in your will. It can take multiple weeks before your heirs or attorneys consult your will, and by then, your funeral wishes may have been completely ignored.

Rather than adding these desires to your will, leave them in a letter to your closest relative so they can have it on hand when the time comes. Consider things like whether you’d prefer to be buried or cremated, what you’d like included in your obituary, and where you want your funeral to take place.

- 3. Inheritance for Your Children With Special Needs** — One of the most crucial elements to keep out of your will is any assets or funds left for a child with special needs. If you leave funds for them in your will, the government can cut any federal benefits they may be receiving, which can cause a significant reduction in their income. Instead, you should create a special needs trust, which will set money aside for your child that will supplement their government benefits.

- 4. Your Wishes for Your Pets** — Lastly, your will should not include any assets or desires you have for your pets. No pet has any lawful claim to an estate or property. After you designate a guardian for your pet in the event of your passing, you should make arrangements directly with them about your wishes and what you want to leave for your pet.

Another great option is to create a pet trust that officially establishes funds meant for your pet’s care and well-being. This is a favorite strategy of celebrities, who often love to pamper their pets. In 2007, wealthy real estate tycoon Leona Helmsley, for example, famously left \$12 million to her Maltese, Trouble. The fluffy pup quickly became a millionaire!

This is just a short list of additives that may be harmful when left in a will. The details are much more complicated! To learn more about what should and shouldn’t be part of your will, speak with an experienced estate planning attorney who can help you properly place your property and final wishes.

TAKE A *BREAK*

P I H S N E Z I T I C V A D V
Y K I I T M M Y H I L I J L Q
R D S I Y N K O M Y B Y C I K
R O E Q Y M E J O L D K D S S
G H S T O Y D R U N K N C L P
L E A V E S O E A K S H I Y X
D R G P I V B K C P O T A W O
I S Y W P E M R W O D T O R D
G B I D R X W O L Z G N U N Z
T B X R E X I W S C Q E A R E
U Z I D P A O E W O B Z O R U
Q E A X A S H M C Z K B Z T G
S Z L G R T Y O K G A G P N P
L V F I E E Y H N L O G R I V
I T V R U R T B U Z H N T Y I

Aster
Blueberries
Citizenship
Grandparents
Homework
Labor
Leaves
Moonstone
Prepare
School
Virgo
Windy

WALNUT AND BLUE CHEESE TOMATO SALAD

Inspired by FeastingAtHome.com



Ingredients

- 1/2 cup walnuts
- 2 lbs ripe heirloom tomatoes
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup smoked blue cheese, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp fresh dill
- Chopped fresh Italian parsley, to taste
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp red wine or balsamic vinegar
- 1 garlic clove, finely minced

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. On a baking sheet, toast the walnuts in the oven for 12–14 minutes.
2. Wash and slice the tomatoes. Place slices on a platter, slightly overlapping. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Scatter toasted walnuts and blue cheese on top, followed by dill and preferred amount of parsley.
4. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil, wine or vinegar, and garlic to make the dressing.
5. Spoon dressing evenly over salad and serve.

Give Your Pet's Kibble a Healthy Upgrade!

We've heard time and time again that dry kibble isn't exactly the best food for pets, but it's undoubtedly the leading product on the market. If your busy schedule doesn't allow for homemade meals for your canine or feline friend, you can keep them in tip-top shape with their usual food with these four health-boosting tips!



Hydrate dry kibble.

This may be the most crucial step when enhancing your pet's meals because, without hydration, it can be difficult for them to digest and even absorb the nutrients in dry food properly. You can ensure your furry friend stays nourished by soaking their food in warm bone broth or goat's milk. If you don't have either on hand, that's perfectly fine — warm water works too!

Add fish oil for omega-3s.

We humans often talk about the benefits of fish oil for its supportive omega-3s, and that applies to your pets too! Not only does fish oil help pets have shiny coats, but it also supports healthy joints, hearts, cognitive functions, and more. You simply pump some fish oil onto hydrated kibble, and it's ready for your pet to eat.

Top with raw food.

Your pet will love devouring a highly nutritious pile of raw food on top of their kibble! Freeze-dried, air-dried, or frozen raw toppers are all outstanding options for increasing your pet's protein and vitamin intake, as they're a mix of meats, fruits, vegetables, and sometimes even ground bone! Dried or frozen toppers also retain their nutritional value and health benefits while staying storage-friendly.

Pack in the vitamins!

Every pet can benefit from a multivitamin, just like people! Because the nutrients in kibble can be difficult to absorb, a multivitamin can help fill any gaps left. Countless pet multivitamins are available on the market, and they include incredible supplements like probiotics, immune support, joint support, and more!

Speak with your pet's veterinarian to learn what nutrients you should prioritize for their diet. Then, you can start filling their kibble dish with everything they need to live a happy and healthy life!

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INSIDE *THIS ISSUE*

- 1 Don't Do Anything Until You Call Us!
- 2 Want to Protect Your Assets? Avoid These Inclusions in Your Will
- 3 Walnut and Blue Cheese Tomato Salad
Improve Your Pet's Health With These Kibble-Enhancing Tips
- 4 Step-Up in Basis Will Save You Tax Dollars

Don't Pay More Capital Gains Tax Than You Should!

USE THIS ESTATE PLANNING LOOPHOLE TO SAVE

There are plenty of estate planning maneuvers, but when done without the guidance of an attorney, these techniques may end up costing your family a fortune. One action that can do more harm than good is transferring your assets into your children's names. While it might seem like you're helping them, they could miss out on a significant tax break: step-up in basis.

What is the step-up in basis loophole?

When you want to transfer a physical property or stocks into your child's name, they will often need to pay a substantial capital gains tax. The value of these assets increases over time, and when you transfer them to your child, they will have to pay tax on all the appreciation, or the increase in value, from when you first purchased the property to the sale date.

Regarding homes, the value can significantly increase over just a few decades. After

two decades, the home's appreciation can easily be hundreds of thousands of dollars. As a result, they could be left with little profit after forking over the capital gains tax.

Meanwhile, if your child were to inherit the property after your passing, they would only need to pay the capital gains tax from the market value at the time of your death instead of when it was initially purchased. The **basis** of the asset's value is **stepping up** in time to adjust the appreciation value. That's why it's called a step-up in basis! The result? Your child will save on expensive taxes and start building wealth with this property's profit.

Instead, try putting your assets in a living trust.

So, how can your child take advantage of the step-up in basis? You can put your assets in a living trust and add them as a beneficiary. Instead of being considered an owner, your child will only inherit your estate after your death. While a living trust has plenty of benefits, you should always consult an attorney to understand if this is the right move for you, your specific assets, and your children.

