

FUTURE-PROOF YOUR FAMILY

Why Young Families Can't Afford to Wait on Estate Planning

For young families in the thick of diaper changes and soccer practices, estate planning can feel like a concern reserved for the distant future. Parents often leave two pages' worth of notes for the babysitter for the evening, but there's no note when it comes to their plans for their assets once they've gone. Starting your estate plan early can ensure your family is protected and your wishes are respected regardless of what happens in life.

Let's examine why embarking on this journey now is a smart move and an act of love and responsibility.

Protects Your Children

Estate planning allows you to protect your children now and in the future, which is especially important if your children are young. In the unfortunate case that a parent or both parents pass away, who will be the guardian(s) of the children, and who will babysit their inheritance until they are old enough to handle it? You can spell this out in your estate plan. I tell clients to appoint someone capable of managing funds safely for the money job and choose someone with tender loving care to raise the children. These are often two different people. However, without a will or living trust, the court decides who will be your children's guardian.

Avoids Probate

If you do not have a proper living trust, other family members will have to go through the often lengthy and expensive probate process when someone in the family dies. The probate court will decide what happens to your assets and the care of your children moving forward. Your assets may be tied up for months or even years before they do any good for your heirs. Creating a plan now will ensure clarity for your family.

Determines Financial Increments

If your children are still young and under the age of 18, they will not likely be able to govern an inheritance effectively right away. However, you can designate how you want money distributed to your children in your living trust. Instead of the money going to your children in one lump sum, you can stage



it so they receive a first payment before college, another in their 30s, and a final distribution in their 40s — or whatever works best for your family.

Plans for Disabilities or Illness

A proper estate plan can also benefit your family while you are still alive. If one or both parents become injured or disabled and unable to make health care choices for themselves or their children, you can give someone the legal power to make those care choices. Additionally, if you have a child with disabilities, a trust can provide resources for expenses not covered by government aid programs.

Though it may feel far off now, creating an estate plan and living trust for your young family will prepare you for the worst-case scenario and build a secure future for your loved ones.

At Frank & Kraft, we can help you navigate the process and tailor a plan to your unique family situation. Call us at 317-684-1100 to get started. Begin now, and rest easy knowing your family's future is in good hands.

-Paul Kraft

HERO HUSKY SAVES THE NEIGHBORHOOD

On Dec. 15, 2023, pet owner Chanell Bell of Philadelphia was taken aback when she noticed that Kobe, her 4-year-old miniature Alaskan husky, had dug a hole in her home's front yard. This was a stark departure from Kobe's usual behavior, which Bell initially dismissed as boredom and promptly refilled the hole. However, when Kobe began to dig again in the same spot, Chanell realized something was amiss.

"We've been here at our home for a while now, and he never digs holes," Bell told USA Today. "So, I knew something was up."

She investigated further, reviewing footage from the family home's security camera overlooking Kobe's newfound digspot. Then, she witnessed Kobe sniff the air around the area before digging the hole in the same spot again.



Thinking something Kobe smelled must have alarmed him, Bell phoned Philadelphia Gas Works, which sent a crew out to investigate. The engineers discovered that the gas lines beneath the Bell household were old, dilapidated, and beginning to leak. After fixing the issue, the company told Bell that if Kobe had not discovered the leak, the line would have posed significant health and safety concerns for the whole neighborhood.

"They told me something as simple as a light switch turning on could've caused an explosion," Bell told USA Today.

After Bell shared Kobe's story on social media, it caught the attention of PETA, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, who awarded the young husky the Heroic Dog Award. Inspired by Kobe's efforts, Bell wrote a children's book dedicated to him called "The Dog That Saved the Block Before Christmas."

Maximize Your Legacy With a Living Trust

A Pathway to Financial Security and Peace

Estate planning empowers individuals to maintain control over their legacy and provide for their families, offering peace of mind and a sense of security for the future. It ensures you control how you want your assets handled during your lifetime and after you pass. A revocable living trust is one of the most influential aspects of an estate plan. If you do not already have an estate plan, it's time to create one, as it is never too early to start!

A trust is like a bucket — you can put property into it and control everything while you are still alive. A trust involves three important

players: the grantor, the trustee, and the beneficiary. The grantor creates the trust, the trustee controls everything inside the trust, and the beneficiaries will receive allocations from the trust according to the wishes of the grantor (you). As the grantor and living trustee, you have control over everything you put into the trust, such as your home, cars, household items, life insurance policies, etc. After you pass away, the trust still exists, but the person you named as the successor trustee will control and distribute its contents to the beneficiaries you specify.

Probate is a timely and costly public process no one wants; however, by establishing a trust, you can avoid it entirely and keep your affairs private. Start by creating a will and then, with the help of a properly trained attorney, transition to creating a trust. An attorney can ensure you fund the trust correctly, retitling property and other assets so the trust (and you, as the grantor and trustee) owns them. This is a crucial part of creating a trust: You must fund it, which is a separate process.

Because a trust allows you to bypass probate, your heirs will enjoy an efficient, private, and straightforward path to honoring your wishes instead of slogging through a lengthy and potentially contentious probate process while grieving. It's one of the most generous and magnanimous gifts you can give them — and the best way to secure your wealth for the next generation.



TAKE A *BREAK*

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

ADVENTURE
CAMPING
FATHER
GEMINI
HIKING
JUNETEENTH
PARK
PICNIC
PRIDE
SANDALS
SUNBURN
SWIMMING

DINING SOLO

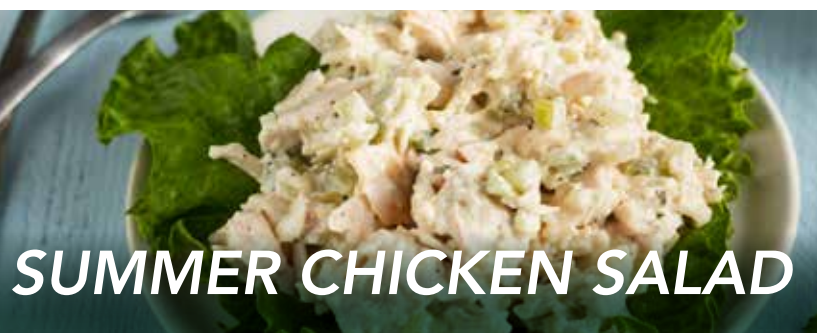
A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO EAT ALONE

Did you know that a little over a century ago, women could not eat alone in restaurants? If they did, people would assume the woman was, let's say, "looking for work," and she would be disgraced, and so would the restaurant. So, women who wanted to dine alone or with other women would be turned away. Women needed to be accompanied by a man to eat out in public.

How did this finally change? After being denied a ticket to a dinner event because of her gender, a journalist named Jane Cunningham Croly took action. Croly was an English-born American journalist who wrote and advocated for equal rights and economic independence for women. Croly also founded and was the first president of the Women's Press Club of New York.

One of Croly's biggest advocacy groups was a women's dinner club named Sororis. The women of Sororis held their first official meeting in April 1868 at a New York restaurant called Delmonico's to protest the ban on women's solo dining. They demanded service, and Delmonico's agreed, making it the first establishment in U.S. history to allow women to dine without a male chaperone.

When World War I began, more women entered the workforce, earning them increased independence. New restaurants and lunch counters started to open that would serve working women, and gradually, dining without a man became commonplace. Progress was slow, though; even as recently as 1970, some restaurants still barred solo women from entering. Thankfully, in today's society, this would never fly!



Ingredients

Inspired by Foodnetwork.com

- 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- Salt and pepper
- 4 ears of corn, shucked
- 3 tbsp minced dill
- 3 stalks celery, finely diced
- 1 red onion, finely diced
- 1 1/2 cups blueberries
- 1 head of butter lettuce

Dressing

- 3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/2 cup half and half
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 tsp sugar
- Juice of 1 lemon

Directions

1. Place chicken in a large plastic bag and pound with a mallet to flatten to 1/4-inch thickness. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
2. Heat grill, then grill chicken on both sides for about 4 minutes per side; set aside to cool before slicing.
3. Grill corn until the kernels begin browning, turning regularly for even cooking. Use a knife to shave the kernels off.
4. In a bowl, mix all dressing ingredients until combined.
5. In a large bowl, combine corn, dill, celery, and onions, then stir in chicken and top with dressing and blueberries as desired.
6. Separate the head of butter lettuce into "cups" to fill with salad and enjoy!

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FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

Olympian Steiner Overcame Adversity to Win Gold

In June 2007, just one year before the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, an SUV traveling on the wrong side of the road hit 22-year-old Susann Steiner — wife of German Olympic weightlifter Matthias Steiner — while she was driving. She was rushed to the hospital, and it was there that Matthias promised her he would win a gold medal in her honor. Tragically, Susann died as a result of her injuries, but Matthias' promise to his late love lived on.

Wanting to make his wife proud, Matthias trained harder than ever before. He had been lifting weights since he was just a teenager, and though he had won medals and championships before, he had never claimed the ultimate prize: an Olympic medal.

Matthias also had to compete in the super heavyweight category against the strongest weightlifters in the world. Among his competitors were the formidable Russian

Evgeny Chigishev, an Olympic veteran and champion, and the Latvian Viktors Scerbaitis, who won the silver medal at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens.

"Weightlifting is a sport without mercy [and] it is very tough to make progress," Matthias said in an interview with the Olympic Channel. "Every time you touch the bar, you realize that you are always alone in weightlifting, the weights are getting heavier and heavier, everything hurts."

But Matthias was not alone. His memory and dedication to Susann inspired him to attain strength he never imagined possible. As it turned out, he needed every ounce of his strength to claim victory. The competition was incredibly close. Matthias' victory was not secure until the last lift; he needed to clean and jerk an astounding 569 pounds — more than he had ever lifted before — to fulfill his promise.



Incredibly, he succeeded. He edged out Chigishev by 1 kilogram, winning the gold medal with a score of 461 against Chigishev's 460. After he had completed his lift, he fell to his knees in tears. At the podium, he held his gold medal and a bouquet of roses in his right hand and clutched a picture of Susann in his left. Matthias honored Susann's memory with his gold medal victory, exactly as he promised.