



Families and Legacies: Challenging Decisions

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Resources

MSU Extension MontGuides and Resources

1. [Designating a Beneficiary through Contractual Arrangements](#) (MSU Extension MontGuide)
Focuses on transferring assets through contractual arrangements, such as those commonly found with insurance policies, individual retirement accounts, and employee benefit plans.
2. [Dying Without a Will in Montana: Who Receives Your Property](#) (MSU Extension MontGuide):
Includes legal terms and detailed examples of possible scenarios for distribution of property should a person die before writing a will.
3. [Life Estate: A Useful Estate Planning Tool](#) (MSU Extension MontGuide): Explains how to allow someone to possess property during his/her lifetime before the estate passes on to another person or organization.
4. [Life Insurance: An Estate Planning Tool](#) (MSU Extension MontGuide): Explains when life insurance should be part of a family's estate plan.
5. [Non-Probate Transfers](#) (MSU Extension MontGuide):
Describes the various forms of ownership that allow the deceased's property to bypass probate and transfer directly to beneficiaries.
6. [Property Ownership](#) (MSU Extension MontGuide): Describes the three main forms of property ownership in Montana, plus real-life examples of estate settlement for each.
7. [Power of Attorney](#) (MSU Extension MontGuide):
Explains how to give another person authority to make financial decisions for you through a legal document known as a power of attorney. Information about the Montana Uniform Power of Attorney Act passed by the 2011 Montana Legislature is provided. Features of the new Statutory Power of Attorney form are also explained.
 - a. [Financial Power of Attorney and Agent Statutory Form](#) (PDF)
8. [Wills](#) (MSU Extension MontGuide):
Outlines why and how to construct a will, including costs, restrictions and changes after its completion.
 - a. [Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Relationship and Obligations Personal Representative, Guardian, or Conservator](#) (PDF)