

Estate Planning – living for today, planning for tomorrow







Sechopoulos Valente Group



SECHOPOULOS VALENTE GROUP EXTENDED TEAM



MIDEL THE TEAM





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<u>Areas of preferred practice:</u> Corporate and Commercial Law; Commercial and Residential Real Estate; Secured Transactions; Wills & Powers of Attorney; Estate Planning & Administration Member of Law Society of Upper Canada; Canadian Bar Association; Essex Law Association

Community Interests: Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation, President and Member of the Board of Directors, past Chair of the Governance and Bylaw Committee; Art Gallery of Windsor Foundation, Member of the Board of Directors Art Gallery of Windsor, Past President and a Member of the Board of Directors Essex Law Association; Past President Ontario College of Pharmacists; Past Member of Council and several committees (Discipline, Finance, Pharmacy Technicians) Victim Services of Windsor and Essex County; Past President and past Chair of Human Resources Committee Rotary Club of Windsor - St. Clair, Member and Past President, Past Chair of International Services Committee Windsor - St. Clair Rotary Club Charities Foundation, Secretary-Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors



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Wills, Powers of Attorney, Trusts, Corporate Estate Freeze, and Joint Tenancy

Ilias Kiritsis, LL.B., J.D.

Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public October 1, 2019







- ➤ A Will is the legal document containing a written statement of how one wishes one's property to be dealt with after one's death
- ➤ Intestate Succession passing away without having a valid will
 - assets distributed in accordance with Succession Law Reform Act
 - estate trustee appointed by courts under Estates Act





Distribution in case of intestate succession

Deceased survived by	Distribution of estate
Spouse and no issue	Spouse receives full estate
Spouse and one child	Spouse receives preferential share first and half of residue
Spouse and two or more children	Spouse receives preferential share first and one third of residue
Spouse and issue	Spouse receives preferential share first and portion of residue with remaining portion equally to all issue
No spouse and no issue	Parents of deceased equally
No spouse, issue or parents	Surviving brothers and sisters equally
None of the above	Surviving nephews and nieces equally and then to the next of kin of equal degree of consanguinity
IF NO NEXT OF KIN	Escheats to and becomes property of the Crown





Estate Administration Fees are based on the value of the estate and are established under the Estate Administration Act.

- Rate of \$5 per \$1,000 for the first \$50,000 of the value of the estate assets
- >\$15 per \$1,000 on the value of the estate assets in excess of \$50,000.

Probate, or the Appointment of the Estate Trustee, is the method designed to allow third parties the freedom to deal with the appointed trustee without having to worry about being sued for dealing with a trustee who may not have the authority under a valid will.

Dual wills can be used as a mechanism for reducing or eliminating estate administration fees.

Primary will would include all assets that require the appointment of an estate trustee in order to deal with the assets with third parties and would be subject to estate administration fees as a result.

Secondary will would include assets that would not require the appointment of an estate trustee and thus not be subject to estate administration fees.





POWERS OF ATTORNEY

- > Two types of Powers of Attorney
 - Property for dealing with all assets
 - Personal Care for medical and healthcare decisions
- Power of Attorney is defined as a written authority, with an attested signature, authorizing a person to act as the attorney or agent of the person granting it
- > They are effective the moment they are signed
- ➤ When dealing with Estate issues it is most common to have unlimited powers of attorney to be able to deal with all assets





Power of Attorney for Property

- Deals with all assets
- > Does NOT require proof of incapacity of the individual
- Recent frauds have made guidelines much more strict in Ontario for use of Powers of Attorney

Power of Attorney for Personal Care

- > Used to make medical or other healthcare decisions on behalf of the grantor
- Proof of incapacity is required
- > May contain "living will" clauses or "pull the plug" clauses



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TRUSTS

- ➤ A trust is defined as an equitable right or interest in a property held by one person on behalf of another
- > Testamentary Trust is created under the terms of a will
- > Inter-vivos Trust is created by an individual while they are alive
- Three requirements to have a legally enforceable trust created are:
 - The certainty of intention
 - The certainty of subject matter or property
 - The certainty of object or beneficiary



CORPORATE ESTATE FREEZE

- Most corporations are created for two main reasons
 - Tax planning issues and the re-distribution of income as corporate tax rates are normally lower
 - Limitations of liability to the shareholder
- ➤ Most people prefer to transfer shares, usually to the next generation, without losing control of the corporation
 - They can accomplish this through an Estate Freeze





- Through an estate freeze there would be a new corporation created, most commonly a "holding company"
- The value of the preference shares in the new company is frozen at a set amount and any growth would accrue to the new holder of the common shares
- > Some issues in any estate freeze are:
 - Control of the new holding company
 - Share structure and election of officers and directors





JOINT TENANCY

- > Upon death of one of the joint tenants, the surviving joint tenant is entitled to be the sole owner of the assets held jointly
- ➤ Most commonly used in estate planning between parents and children
- ➤ General rule as a result of the Pecore and Madsen Estate cases:
 - Presumption of a Resulting Trust when there is a transfer to an adult as the joint tenant
 - Presumption of Advancement when there is a transfer to a minor as the joint tenant
 - Important to have evidence of the intention of the grantor





- > Spousal roll over of assets if the joint tenants are spouses
- ➤ If the joint tenant is not the spouse there are other issues that must be considered
 - Any tax implications upon the transfer of property
 - Loss of control over the asset
 - Exposure of asset to liabilities of joint tenant
 - Consideration of siblings who are not added as joint tenants
 - Trust and excellent relationship between joint tenants to avoid conflicts in dealing with the asset
 - Evidence of intention to rebut any presumptions under law





QUESTIONS?

Please do email us your questions at stella.dhono@rbc.com

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We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you and your family in creating and guiding your important financial plans.

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