



***From the Desk of  
Joseph-Paul Timpano, CPA***

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*Commentary from the President of JPT Financial Solutions, Inc.*



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## ***Planning Financial and Healthcare Affairs for Change of Life Situations***

**May 7, 2014**

Clients need to consider getting their financial and healthcare affairs in order, to help them in their time of need, in advance of any change of life situation they may encounter. Parents with adult children need to document how they would like their financial and healthcare affairs to be handled in the event of sickness or temporary absences. This will ensure not only that their will is carried out, but will attempt to eliminate the tendency of family members to quarrel with one another when conducting the affairs of their loved one.

As an accounting practitioner, I've seen too many times the problems that arise when clients do not document in advance their desires for financial and healthcare affairs. Many times this is fertile soil for one or more of the adult children who are looking to secure a power play over other members of the family. One or more of the adult children may enjoy the "high" they get having the power to take

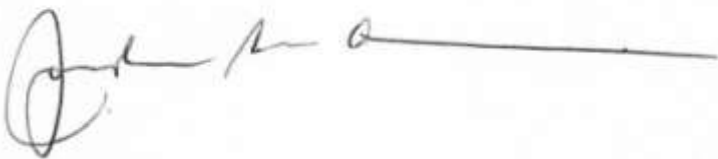
charge. The situation will become an ego trip for those in charge, thus causing strife with other members of the family.

The parent can arrange to set up a durable power of attorney which nominates one or more family members as representative of the elder parent in financial matters should the need arise. In addition the parent can draft an addendum to the power of attorney which can further clarify priorities concerning how their financial affairs are handled as needed. The same solution would apply to healthcare matters. A healthcare proxy is a must for clients to let others know what their healthcare wishes are in the event they are not able to articulate them.

If the parent does not already have the desires for financial and healthcare affairs documented, it is advised that one or more of the adult children recommend this course of action to the parent. Many times, however, an adult child is cautious about bringing up this matter to the elderly parent because it can be a very challenging and emotional event. At this time the family needs to put the emotions aside and focus more on the benefits of having the financial discussions in advance of change of life events. The parent will have the comfort knowing that his or her desires will be carried out while eliminating a situation where the children will begin to fight with one another.

A good business consultant would share options with their clients and guide them as needed to make their own decisions, as opposed to simply telling the client what to do. The consultant should demonstrate the cause and effect of each option that is set before them. By giving clients the right to choose their dignity is maintained, while at the same time guidance and direction is provided as needed in a gentle and constructive manner.

Need help with this? Contact our office for a consultation...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph-Paul Timpano', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph-Paul Timpano, CPA

*“From the Desk of Joseph-Paul Timpano CPA” is a publication of JPT Financial Solutions Inc. We are accounting control consultants & solutions specialists who provide advisory, tax & general accounting services to business & consumer clients. As key internal consultants, we troubleshoot & enhance financial process coordination, internal control development, & bottom-line performance through our exemplary problem-solving, analytical, organizational & communication skills.*

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