

Are You Risking Your Family's Future?

**Discover the Perfect Plan to Protect
Your Loved Ones**

About Edward Olkovich



Edward Olkovich

Ed is recognized as a leading Canadian estate expert. He has practised law in his own firm since 1978 and is a Certified Specialist in Estates and Trusts Law.

Ed is also the author of seven books, including *Choosing Executors*, *Breakthrough Estate Planning*, and *Estate to the Heart: How to Plan Wills and Estates for Your Loved Ones*.

He is regularly quoted in national publications as an expert in estates, and is a frequent guest on television and radio. As a lawyer, Ed advises clients on wills, estates, executors, estate administration, and handles legal challenges to wills.

Ed is a member of the Ontario Law Society of Upper Canada, Ontario Bar Association, American Bar Association, Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), Canadian Association of Professional Speakers (CAPS), and National Speakers Association (NSA).

He is the founder of EstateTherapy.com, an online estate planning publisher. Ed can be reached by email at ed@MrWills.com, or by telephone at 416-769-9800, or toll free at 1-877-MrWills.

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"I say to you: Make perfect your will.
I say: take no thought of the harvest,
but only of proper sowing..."
- T.S. Eliot (1885-1965), Choruses from the Rock

Do It for Those You Love

Would you like to make sure your loved ones are protected?

What would it be worth to you if, no matter what happens, you had a detailed plan of action ready?

Well, I will share this information with you here, at no cost or obligation to you. You can use this to take care of the special people in your life. It has been tested year after year.

What Is the Perfect Plan?

Perfection, like many things we value, is hard to define. Perfect, is practically anything that you look at as an ideal. And a plan can be any arrangement you make in advance. It could be something as simple as a vacation plan.

So how do these two words magically connect to protect your loved ones?

Imagine your estate as another word for your loved ones. If so, you'll realize that taking simple estate planning steps will help you create the perfect plan for those you love.

Planning can avoid problems like an unnecessary estate sale. This can jeopardize everyone close to you. Let me explain this danger and how you can avoid it.

Caution: Estate Sales Are Dangerous

"Estate Sale" - what do you think of when you see these words? Most people expect a bargain when families must sell assets to pay bills, taxes or to support themselves.

If you plan now, your loved ones can avoid an estate sale. I know you can avoid much pain and expense with a little planning. You can create your own perfect plan for those you love. Start by asking yourself these questions:

- Where can I get information?
- What decisions must I make?
- What action do I need to take?

Read on and you'll find the answers.

Use This Risk Check-Up

Your loved ones could be at risk because your current estate plan is incomplete. Use this checklist to make sure they are protected.

Your Current Risk Checklist

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. My loved ones know where my up-to-date will is stored. | Yes | No |
| 2. I have backup executors or guardians for minor children in my will. | Yes | No |
| 3. I have legally appointed someone to handle decisions for me if I can't. | Yes | No |
| 4. I have a strategy in place to save probate and income taxes. | Yes | No |
| 5. I have provided for loved ones with special needs. | Yes | No |
| 6. I have a plan to deal with my business if I die. | Yes | No |
| 7. I regularly review my estate plan to achieve my goals. | Yes | No |

If you have not answered "Yes" to all the questions, you must take action.

Steps to the Perfect Plan

Let's analyze what steps you need for a plan for action. You should cover the unexpected and inevitable surprises that life throws your way.

I identified the six steps you must take to protect loved ones. Here are the steps:

1. Get started - look at your goals, assets and debts
2. Save taxes - take steps to reduce income and probate taxes
3. Build cornerstones - wills protect your loved ones
4. Pick executors - trust these people to handle your estate
5. Bless beneficiaries - who will you benefit and protect
6. Protect yourself - if you become ill or incapacitated

The perfect plan concentrates on how things will be done and who will do what. You avoid crisis management and make sure worse things do not happen. You need professional advice to cover all the angles.

What Are Your Benefits?

You'll put your worries behind you and get these benefits:

- Those with special needs will not be in jeopardy
- You protect valuable assets and the people you love
- You reduce income and probate taxes without risk
- You have the right person named for every job
- You ensure your money, property and dignity are protected

Young or old, rich or poor, you need to take action. Otherwise, your good intentions are worthless.

Perfect Plan Documents

Let's look at the essential documents you need, including wills and powers of attorney. You must have professionally prepared planning documents to achieve your goals. Remember, only lawyers can give legal opinions about your will and testify as experts in court.

Some situations are complex and call for experienced advice. Your estate plan may have to include trusts and life insurance. You may need a marriage contract or prenuptial agreement to protect children from a prior marriage.

Do you have partners or other shareholders? You need a buy/sell agreement should something happen to you.

Everyone Needs a Will

Making a will is a perfect way to guard your loved ones. A will saves time and money even if you have few assets. In your will you choose who benefits and who controls your estate; you set up a tax plan; and you name guardians to protect minors.

- If you die without a will and have children, don't think your spouse automatically inherits your entire estate.
- If you have minor children, you need to name guardians and set up a trust to manage their inheritance.
- If you have a common-law spouse or same-sex partner, in many provinces they must be named in your will to inherit.
- If you die without a will, an estate trustee must be appointed by the court. If you are lucky, your relatives will not go ten rounds in a court fight.

Make a will and keep it current. If you are making a new will, use The Perfect Plan Planning Sheet attached. Bring it with you to your meeting with a lawyer. It will save you time and money.

Protect Your Money

What if you become incapacitated, or an illness prevents you from handling your finances? What will you do? If you don't have a power of attorney to handle your property, your loved ones must get a court order to deal with your assets.

Your power of attorney should specify that it is effective even after you may become incapacitated. You sign this legal document with two witnesses to appoint a person as your agent for your financial affairs. Upon your death, the attorney's authority ceases and your executor takes over.

Will your bank accept your current documents if you made them yourself? If you have any doubts, check with a lawyer.

Protect Your Dignity

Your perfect plan should include a signed document called a *power of attorney for personal care*. You use it when you cannot make your own personal care decisions. You can cover health care, shelter and safety, and final decisions on your right to die in dignity.

The person you appoint as attorney will make decisions for your personal care only if you become incapable. Two witnesses are also required for this document. You can attach your written wishes to a personal care power of attorney.

Now, we have covered the documents you need. What should you do next?

Options to Consider

- 1. See a Lawyer** - You can get started by filling out The Perfect Plan Planning Sheet attached. It will make all the difference in the world to you and your loved ones. Do not delay, book today.
- 2. Get More Information** - Check out www.EstateTherapy.com.

The Perfect Plan Planning Sheet

Complete the following details and speed the process to prepare your perfect plan. Bring this with you when you meet with your lawyer.

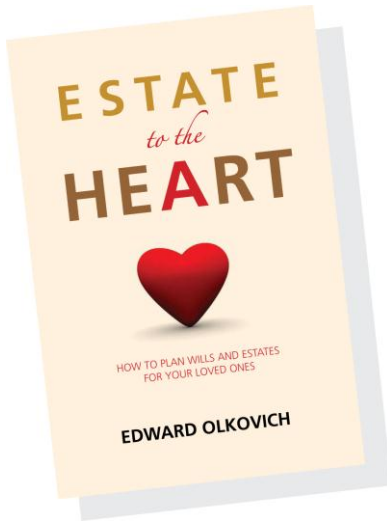
1. I want my assets to go to:
2. My backup beneficiary just in case is:
3. The person to be in charge of my estate as executor or estate trustee is:
4. My back-up executor is:
5. My minor children's guardian is:
6. My back-up guardian is:
7. I need a trust in my will to protect:

• Beneficiaries	Yes	No	Not sure
• Minor children	Yes	No	Not sure
• Adults with special needs	Yes	No	Not sure
8. I have:

• a prior divorce or separation	Yes	No
• a business	Yes	No
• a marriage contact	Yes	No
• assets outside of Ontario	Yes	No
• dependants from a prior relationship	Yes	No
9. My attorney for property is:
10. My attorney for personal care is:
11. My back-up attorneys are:

You can get more valuable information to help you plan at www.EstateTherapy.com.

"Get started on your estate planning"



This simple book will bring you up to speed on the **basics** of estate planning you need to understand.

Filled with **easy-to-understand** information on wills, estates, probate, income tax, insurance, powers of attorney and many more topics you **need to know**.

*"A **must read** with practical strategies to achieve your goals. The fill-in-the-blank questions, spreadsheets and checklists are great".*

- **Paul Barreca**, CFP

Host, The Power and Money, Corus Entertainment.

Author Edward Olkovich is nationally recognized as a speaker, lawyer and a Certified Specialist in Estates and Trusts law. His practical nuts-and-bolts approach explains key concepts to guide you through the process of estate planning.

***Estate to the Heart* is not available in stores.**

- 1 Book \$34.95.
- 5 Books \$100.
- 25 Books \$450.

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