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TOP 10 TASKS/TOOLS • SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Practical Guidance Trusts & Estates

This Top 10 list contains key resources and tools found on the Trusts & Estates practice area page.

1. STATE-SPECIFIC CONTENT AND AUTOMATED DOCUMENTS

Trusts & Estates now includes extensive coverage of 11 jurisdictions (CA, FL, GA, IL, MA, MI, NJ, NY, OH, PA, and TX). In addition, by the end of 2021, the practice area will include the base estate planning templates for all U.S. states and territories. These will also be automated by the end of 2021. You can browse by topic and then filter by your relevant state, or click on "Jurisdiction" on the practice area home page to see all of the content we have for a particular state.

2. TAX COVERAGE

We have 61 practice notes on tax considerations in estate planning matters, most of which address discrete federal topics. These practice notes are organized into 9 subtopics, making it easy to quickly access relevant information. Some notable practice notes include:

Impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on Federal Estate
Generation-Skipping Transfer Taxation
Special Needs Trusts and Taxes
Same-Sex Couples and Tax Planning

3. ESTATE PLANNING FUNDAMENTALS

Our Estate Planning Fundamentals topic contains crucial content that a practitioner would need to begin an estate planning matter. It includes practice notes for 11 jurisdictions, as well as several estate planning questionnaires and worksheets that can be used during initial client meetings. A sample can be found here: Estate Plan Questionnaire (Long Form) (PA). It also contains several types of customizable letters to clients, including engagement letters and memos with instructions on funding revocable trusts.

4. WILLS

Our Wills task guides attorneys in drafting a will for their client(s). It contains over 250 will-related templates and over 170 clauses, as well as 34 practice notes. This task includes practice notes on the purposes and uses of a will, the requisites of creating and executing a will, and the process of amending or revoking a will. Additionally, will templates are broken out for a variety of circumstances—single, partnered, or married individuals; clients with children or without; and templates creating or providing for different types of trusts for beneficiaries. For sample templates, see Will for Individual with Spouse or Partner (Optional Trust(s) for Spouse and/or Children) (NY), Will for Single Individual (Optional Trust(s) for Children) (DC), and Will for Single Individual (Optional Trust(s) for Children) (ID).

5. TRUSTS

Our Trusts task guides attorneys in drafting a trust for their client(s). It contains over 300 trust-related templates and over 110 clauses, as well as 34 practice notes. Coverage in this task includes practice notes on the characteristics and uses of a trust, the requisites of trust administration, and the process of amending or terminating a trust. Additionally, trust templates are broken out for a variety of circumstances—revocable or irrevocable trusts; single or married clients; and clients with children or without. For a sample template, see Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust for Married Individual (Trusts for Children) (OH). For a sample practice note, see Characteristics and Uses of Trusts (OH).

6. RESOURCE KITS

Our resource kits, located in the Estate Planning Fundamentals task, help attorneys navigate through the process of creating an estate plan for a client. The resource kits, categorized by state and type of client, provide a comprehensive list of links to practice notes, templates, checklists, and clauses that can be used when preparing an estate plan from start to finish. For a sample resource kit, see Estate Plan for Single Individual Resource Kit (NY).

7. CLAUSES FOR CUSTOMIZATION

The Trusts & Estates practice area contains over 300 clauses, most of which can be inserted into a will, a trust, or an accompanying estate planning document, making it easy to customize a template based on client needs.

8. DISABILITY PLANNING

Key items in this task include the following state-specific practice notes and templates:

Practice Notes:
Elder Law Planning (NY)
Guardianships and Special Needs Trusts (TX)
Supplemental Needs Trusts (GA)

Annotated Templates:
Advance Directive for Individual with Terminal Condition (NJ)
Advance Health Care Directive (CT)
Preneed Guardian Designation (Minor) (FL)
Health Care Proxy (Long Form) (MA)
Supplemental Needs Trust (TX)

9. POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Coverage in this task includes practice notes on types of powers of attorney, authority granted, and termination of powers. State-specific templates in this task include a variety of power of attorney templates, such as:

Annotated Templates :
Power of Attorney (Durable, General) (VA)
Power of Attorney (Durable, General) (NC)
Power of Attorney (Durable) (NJ)
Power of Attorney (GA)

10. PROBATE AND ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

Our Probate and Estate Administration task contains helpful information on probate proceedings. State-specific items in this task include practice notes on the governing law of probate and fiduciary appointments, such as Governing Law of Probate, Jurisdiction, and Proceedings (MI). This task also contains several official probate forms linked for easy access, as well as 26 checklists related to probate proceedings.