Assembling an Estate Planning Team
Who Do You Need on Your Side?

Recruiting outside help is a smart move when it comes to putting together a solid estate plan. Here are a few key players you might want on your estate planning team:

- **Estate planning attorney**: The bulk of your estate plan is made up of legal documents such as a will, a trust, powers of attorney and living wills, all of which need to be prepared by an attorney.

- **CPA/tax professional**: Your estate plan may also require a review of complex tax issues relating to income, estate, gift and capital gains, so a tax professional is a must-have.

- **Insurance professional**: You may wish to review the amount of life insurance needed at your death to provide for survivors’ needs. In addition, for larger estates, life insurance may be needed to pay federal or state estate taxes, so it’s wise to have an insurance agent involved.

- **Trust officer**: This professional can assist with any trusts in your plan that are created now (e.g., a revocable living trust) or at your death for your spouse, children or other loved ones.

- **Gift planning officer**: If you’re considering including a charitable organization, such as Young Harris College, in your estate plans, we can work with your estate planning team to develop the best gift plan to meet your needs and ours. Contact Jennifer McAfee at (706) 379-5318 or jmcafee@yhc.edu to learn more.

Including a gift to YHC in your estate plan is a flexible way to make a difference without giving up assets today. Use our survey to let us know if you have made this type of gift.

Inside This Issue
- Q&A: When the State Makes Decisions for You
- 4 Easy Steps to Remember YHC in Your Will

Sign up for our eNewsletter to receive regular estate and gift planning tips in your inbox. Simply complete and return the enclosed 30-second survey today.
What do Abraham Lincoln, Princess Diana, John F. Kennedy Jr., professional golfer Payne Stewart and NFL quarterback Steve McNair have in common?

All are famous individuals whose lives ended prematurely without warning. Their tragedies serve as reminders that it is never too early to plan. In fact, there may be no better time than now, while the idea is fresh in your mind, to plan for your future. One of the most important ways to do that is through your will.

To help you get started, we’ve gathered a few commonly asked questions about wills along with their answers. If your questions aren’t listed here, rest assured that we would be glad to help you find the information you need to start this important process.

**Q** What happens if I die without a will?

**A** More than half of all Americans die without a will—the legal term for this is intestate. If you fall in this category, you have no say over who receives your assets at your death. Loved ones, friends and organizations dear to you may receive nothing.

If you die without a will, your assets are distributed according to the state laws where you lived at the time of your death. Laws vary from state to state, but no state provides for a portion of an intestate estate to go to charity.

Following state law, the court will appoint someone to administer your estate and decide how your assets will be distributed.

**Q** Who will inherit my assets?

**A** Most states look first to the spouse and children of the decedent. Other blood relatives may also inherit in the absence of a spouse or living children.

For tips on creating or updating your will, visit our website at [www.yhc.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.yhc.edu/plannedgiving).
Can I control how things are divided up?

Absolutely. When you create a will, you take control of your legacy and the distribution of your assets.

Do I really need an attorney to create a will?

Yes. Your will is likely the single most important document you’ll ever create. You’ve worked your entire life to build a legacy, so it makes sense that you have opinions about how your assets are distributed. Why leave anything to chance? A legally valid will prepared by a qualified professional will save your loved ones some major headaches down the road.

I don’t have an attorney. How do I find one?

Seek out recommendations from family, friends and co-workers. You can also seek referrals from a local bar association, estate planning council or the American Bar Association’s Internet lawyer referral service: www.abanet.org.

Still Have Questions?

We’re here to help. To learn more about creating a will or how you can remember YHC with a gift in your will, please contact Jennifer McAfee at (706) 379-5318 or jmcafee@yhc.edu.

Why You Need an Estate Planning Attorney

If you’re worried about saving time and money, you may think a do-it-yourself will is good enough. Think again—only a qualified estate planning attorney can create a will that is legally valid and accomplishes exactly what you want, such as the key items below.

1. Your will has a big job to do.

Most of us will use our estate plans to accomplish these important tasks:

- Name an executor, the person or financial institution that will oversee the execution of the terms outlined in your will
- Name a guardian for minor children or other dependents
- Distribute personal property to friends and family members
- Set up trusts to save taxes and provide financial management

2. Your will can define your legacy.

Many of us want to leave a lasting mark on the world. A gift in your will, called a bequest, is a perfect way to do so. You can designate a specific item; a set sum of money; a percentage of your estate; or the remainder of your estate after other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid. In return, your estate receives an estate tax deduction for the amount of the gift.
4 Easy Steps To Remember YHC in Your Will

Remembering Young Harris College in your will is the most enduring statement you can make about your belief in our students and programs. The support you have offered throughout your lifetime can endure for years to come.

Your gift can be a specific asset, such as a certain amount of cash, securities or property, or a percentage of your estate. Plus, a gift in your will is flexible—you can change your mind at any time—and it can be accomplished in as few as four steps:

1. **Determine** whether you’d like to make a gift of a specific amount or if you’d like to leave a percentage.

2. **Decide** if you want to direct your gift to help particular projects or leave your gift unrestricted, allowing it to be used for our most pressing needs.

3. **Meet** with your attorney to include your gift in your will or revocable living trust.

4. **Share** your intention with us so we can thank you and ensure that your wishes are followed. We are also happy to respect your wishes regarding anonymity.

We are grateful for your continued support of YHC and we would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about ways to give that can help you meet your financial and philanthropic goals. Contact us today to start a confidential conversation at no obligation.

What's Next?

- Return the enclosed 30-second survey to request our FREE guide *Make Your Final Wishes Come True.*
- Stop by our website, [www.yhc.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.yhc.edu/plannedgiving), to discover a wealth of helpful estate and gift planning information.
- Contact us if you have any questions about tax-smart ways to support Young Harris College.

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