

# ASTERITA & ASSOCIATES, LLC

–Attorneys At Law–

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter!  
We offer this newsletter as a trusted resource to keep you updated on important legal topics, news about our firm and upcoming events.

## Five Common Estate Planning Misconceptions

Estate planning is often delayed due to the overall collective belief that we always have time. However, waiting too long or failing to execute a plan at all can cause unintentional and unfavorable consequences.

In fact, many people don't realize that without an estate plan, the law dictates how your assets are distributed, which may not actually align with your wishes. This is especially important for those with children from prior relationships or blended families, as state law may not provide for them in the way you assume.

Here are the **top five misconceptions** we often see when helping our clients with their estate planning:

1. ***“I’m Too Young to Need an Estate Plan”*** → Unexpected events can happen at any age. Without a plan, the court may decide who controls your finances and who inherits your assets.
2. ***“I Don’t Have Enough Assets to Worry About It”*** → Estate planning isn't just for the wealthy. Without a will or trust, or designation of specific beneficiaries, state law determines who receives your assets. Under that outcome, it may exclude those you would have otherwise chosen.
3. ***“My Family Knows What I Want”*** → Verbal wishes generally hold no legal weight. Without a proper plan, your estate may not go to your intended heirs–



especially in families where stepchildren and remarried spouses complicate inheritance rights.

4. ***“A Will is All I Need”***→ A will is important, but it’s just one piece of the puzzle. Trusts, beneficiary designations, powers of attorney, and health care proxies ensure your assets are properly managed and distributed without unnecessary legal battles. It also helps keep your affairs properly managed in case you can no longer do so for yourself during your lifetime.

5. ***“Once It’s Done, I Never Have to Think About It Again”*** → Life changes. Marriage, divorce, children, grandchildren, new assets, the sale or loss of assets—these are all important life events that can significantly impact your estate plan. Regular check-ins are crucial in keeping it up to date.

Don’t leave your family’s future to chance. [Contact us today](#) to start the conversation and take the first step toward securing your legacy.

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**NEW YORK OFFICE**

900 South Avenue 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 43  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
(718) 370-2900

**NEW JERSEY OFFICE**

66 Reckless Place  
Red Bank, NJ 07701  
(732) 741-5800

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Asterita & Associates, LLC - Attorneys At Law - | 66 Reckless Place | Red Bank, NJ 07701 US

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