

ESTATE DOCUMENT PREPARATION-----HELPFUL INFORMATION

- **LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT-** outlines your desires in the distribution of your property that takes effect at death.
- **DURABLE POWERS OF ATTORNEY.** A durable FINANCIAL power of attorney is used to invest someone whom you trust with the authority to act on your behalf in financial transactions.. A durable power of attorney could be indispensable should you become incapacitated. (*MAKE A CAREFUL SELECTION FOR THIS DESIGNATION. YOU SHOULD NOT APPOINT SOMEONE UNLESS YOU FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE PERSON WILL KEEP YOUR BEST INTEREST AT HEART.*)
- **APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR YOURSELF BEFORE THE NEED ARISES.** This document is designed to give you some say so over who will be your guardian should the need ever arise. This is a matter that is otherwise determined by the Courts. It is recommended that whoever has your durable power of attorney have this power also.
- **APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR MINOR CHILDREN.** Texas Probate Code gives the surviving parent of a minor child the right to designate the person who will serve as guardian of his or her children after the death of the parent. This designation is required to be in writing. If you have a minor child or children, I strongly recommend that you consider who you would prefer to be the child's guardian in the event there is no surviving parent. In the absence of the appropriate written designation, the Courts will appoint a guardian in accordance with a statutory order of preference.
- **DIRECTIVE TO PHYSICIAN (Living Will).** You have the right to express your desire not to have your life artificially prolonged where your attending physician determines that death is imminent or will result within a relatively short time without application of life-sustaining procedures.
- **MEDICAL POWER OF ATTONREY.** This document is used to invest in someone the authority to make medical decisions for you in the event that you are unable to make those decisions for yourself.