

When death divides

How to craft an estate plan that prevents family squabbles

BY ROBERT C. ANDERSON
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In the past two years, I have seen a surprising increase in serious disputes among children, especially baby-boomers with a sense of entitlement, after their parents have passed on. Disharmony has risen to **25 percent** and some disputes have ended up in court.

Even worse is the alienation which will last a lifetime.

Why the increase? It boils down to the resentment and jealousy of those excluded from decision making and the mistakes, delays and controlling behavior of those in charge — after the parental “glue” that held the family together is gone.

We offer 10 innovative measures to lessen the risk of disharmony, such as trust protector, a “clear the air” settlement conference, re-



quired mediation and anti-bicker forms for personal effects, among others.

“I would rather have my children live in harmony without money after I’m gone than be in miserable alienation with millions,” one client recently admitted.

Contact the Elder Law Firm of Anderson Associates to receive our comprehensive and complimentary report on “Harmony Enhancing Measures for Estate Plans.”

Robert C. Anderson, a member of St. Peter’s Cathedral and graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, is active with the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and has served over 6,000 families in the Upper Peninsula. His firm, the Elder Law Firm of Anderson Associates of 148 W. Hewitt, Marquette, MI 49855, has funded for this article. We have six offices throughout the Upper Peninsula. We can be reached at (887) 304-3119 or at upelderlaw@upelderlaw.com. The designation of Certified Elder Law Attorney is awarded by the National Elder Law Foundation, which is accredited by the American Bar Association.



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