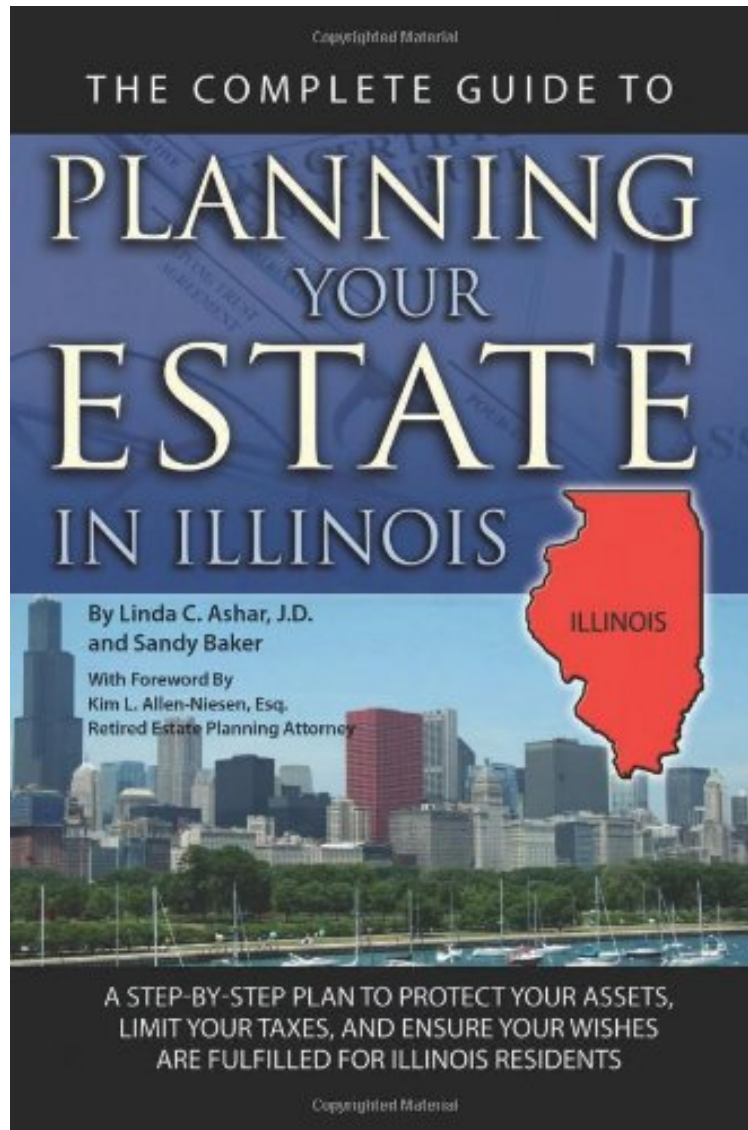


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The Complete Guide to Planning Your Estate in Illinois: A Step-by-step Plan to Protect Your Assets, Limit Your Taxes, and Ensure Your Wishes Are Fulfilled for Illinois Residents

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. it's mostly incredibly basic generalizations about what is a pretty important and complex matterBy TimothyThis book is written at too much of a dumbed-down level and doesn't give a very deep understanding of the concepts and tools necessary for proper estate planning. While it's Illinois specific, it's mostly incredibly basic generalizations about what is a pretty important and complex matter. If you care enough about estate planning to buy a book on it, you're going to want a more in-depth one than this. If you want a vague idea of estate planning, save your money and look online. I don't recommend it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Valuable InformationBy Trent ReinsmithOne of the first points that this book makes is that it is a huge mistake to wait to plan your estate. Another piece of advice that is offered here is that you do not, under any circumstances, want to plan your estate or write a will without the help of a series of professionals at your side. Many people view estate planning as something done by the old, infirm or wealthy. The authors of this book try very hard to dispel this type of close-minded thinking. The logic of the authors is that the younger you are when you start to think about estate planning the better off you will be. If you set the wheels in motion early, you will save time, money and stress later in life. For example, the younger you are when you start planning, the cheaper life insurance, an important piece of estate planning, will be. It's these small pieces of wisdom that the authors work hard to share with the reader. The Complete Guide To Planning Your Estate In Illinois is presented in a step-by-step manner. The authors take great pains to describe each move one should make in this process, starting with assembling the right team for the job and the role each member of that team will play. Other pieces of the puzzle that is estate planning which are covered: determining your net worth, wills, laws, probate, trusts, insurance, taxes, investing and financial planning, will substitutions and common "what if" situations. The appendices include some easy to use forms as well as a quiz to test your understanding of the topics covered.The single most important thing to take away from this book is that estate planning is something that needs to be done early and with very little fear. After reading this book and using the tips the authors provide, the reader should be able to leave their planning meetings confident in the knowledge that they will be providing for their families future. A very well written, easy to understand book on a topic that many people tend to fear and dread.

What happens to your estate after you are gone is very much within your control. Estate planning is not only for the wealthy; it is for everyone. It is simply the process of deciding where your assets are to be distributed after your death. For those people who wish to preserve their assets for designated purposes such as family or special charities it becomes necessary to make special advance preparations. The right plan can protect the value of your estate and spare your loved ones unnecessary hassles and legal conflicts. The Complete Guide to Planning Your Estate in Illinois will help you glide through this complicated process. This new book has been adapted to offer Illinois residents state-specific advice for estate planning. Coauthors Linda C. Ashar, attorney at law, and Sandy Baker have crafted an estate planning primer, allowing Illinois residents to become more informed and more involved during the process. Illinois-specific information is offered throughout this book, including: Illinois probate code; Illinois rules, regulations, and laws specific to estate planning; elements of a valid Illinois will; planning your living will in Illinois; explanations of Illinois laws regarding durable health care power of attorneys, do not resuscitate (DNR) orders, and directives to withhold CPR. The book's easy-to-understand context clarifies this complicated and sensitive subject and gives readers the power to take control of their future. Atlantic Publishing is a small, independent publishing company based in Ocala, Florida. Founded over twenty years ago in the company president's garage, Atlantic Publishing has grown to become a renowned resource for non-fiction books. Today, over 450 titles are in print covering subjects such as small business, healthy living, management, finance, careers, and real estate. Atlantic Publishing prides itself on producing award winning, high-quality manuals that give readers up-to-date, pertinent information, real-world examples, and case studies with expert advice. Every book has resources, contact information, and web sites of the products or companies discussed. This Atlantic Publishing eBook was professionally written, edited, fact checked, proofed and designed. The print version of this book is 336 pages and you receive exactly the same content. Over the years our books have won dozens of book awards for content, cover design and interior design including the prestigious Benjamin Franklin award for excellence in publishing. We are proud of the high quality of our books and hope you will enjoy this eBook version.

Just mentioning the need for an estate plan often throws people into an instant state of guilt over not having one and confusion about how to start. What information is required? Which professionals should be contacted? What decisions need to be made? For most people, it is just easier to put it off again. Throughout my 18 years of practicing estate planning law, I constantly compared the ease of administering a clear estate plan to the turmoil caused when a family member died without a plan. One of the best gifts, and certainly the last gift, a person leaves his or her family is a well-planned estate. It is never too early to start thinking about an estate plan. The sooner a plan is started, the more options

are available to the client. For example, life insurance frequently is an important component of a good plan, and policies are cheaper at a younger age. Starting relatively early in life usually means there is less financial information to organize, and updating becomes a lifelong habit. Moreover, clearly stating health care wishes and appointing a person to direct them are important at every age because accidents happen. The trauma of an accident is exacerbated when sensitive health care decisions must be made on assumptions, leaving family members, doctors, or even judges guessing about the patient's values. *The Complete Guide to Planning Your Estate in Illinois* is the perfect companion in the planning process. It explains the information needed to start what assets are included in the estate, the effect of debt, who can help and how to obtain that information. The terminology and options involved with probate, trusts, insurance, and the estate tax can be overwhelming. In my experience, many clients leave their first meeting with a professional feeling dazed. With *The Complete Guide to Planning Your Estate in Illinois*, clients can enter the meeting with an understanding of the process and know they have a resource to refer to every step along the way. Estate planning is a combination of federal tax law and state administration law. Any guide must include the fundamentals of the tax provisions and property transfer options, but also the particular rules specific to each state. Not following the state laws can cause delay and additional fees to correct mistakes, or worse, could invalidate portions of a plan. This guide is designed to inform Illinois residents of their options and the rules for implementing their plans. Recently, Stieg Larsson, the bestselling Swedish author, wrote all three books of the Millennium trilogy and died of a heart attack before any were published. They are a huge hit, resulting in millions of kroners in Larsson's estate. Who receives the money? He lived with a woman for years; she was his life companion, but they never married. He did have a will prepared years ago giving the money to an organization, but he never signed it. As in Illinois, Sweden has intestate laws that decide who receives a deceased person's assets in the event there is not a will. Under these laws, Larsson's father and brother are very wealthy men. If you don't have an estate plan, get started. --Kim L Allen-Niesen
About the Author Esq. Retired Estate Planning Attorney