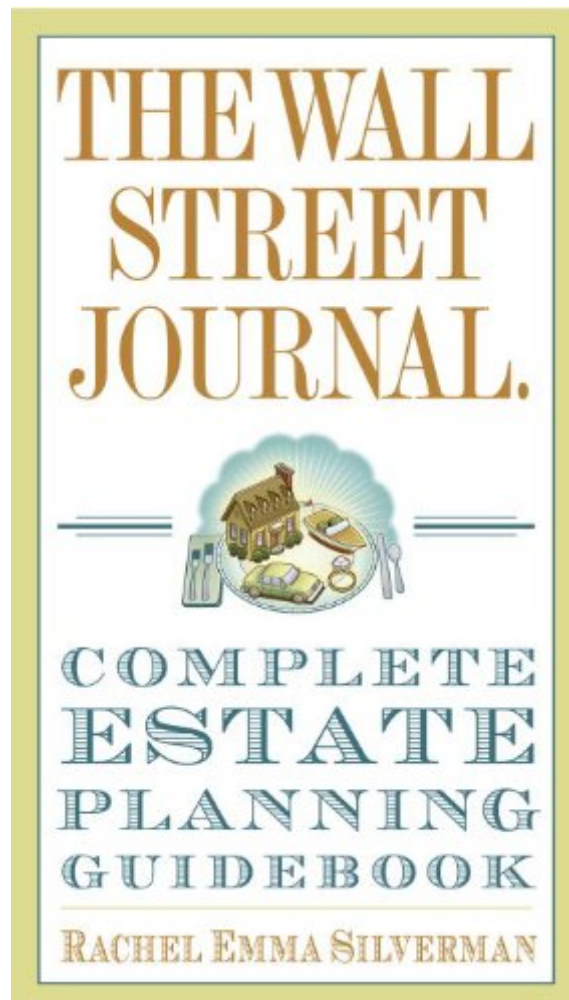




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The Wall Street Journal Complete Estate-Planning Guidebook



Synopsis

Let's face it: you can't avoid death or taxes. But you can create an estate plan that will make both a whole lot easier for your loved ones and put you in control of how your assets will get passed to your heirs. Here, Wall Street Journal personal-finance reporter Rachel Emma Silverman walks you step-by-step through the process. Chock-full of clear and solid advice on how to get the most out of the main estate planning tools - including wills, trusts, life insurance, guardianship papers, and powers-of-attorney documents - the Wall Street Journal Complete Estate-Planning Guidebook will help make your estate-planning process as simple, smooth, and unintimidating as possible. This book will help you:

- Clarify your estate-planning goals, such as dividing up property for heirs, reducing taxes or leaving money for charity
- Understand the key estate-planning documents you'll need, including wills, beneficiary-designation forms, powers-of-attorney and health-care advance directives
- Decode the technical jargon that estate planners often use, so you feel comfortable discussing QTIPs and QPRTs when you sit down with your lawyer
- Reduce possible estate, gift or generation-skipping taxes and legal and probate fees - decreasing what goes to the tax man and increasing what goes to your heirs
- Learn strategies to divide money and personal property among your heirs, and reduce the possibility of family fights
- Discuss sensitive estate-planning issues with your family
- Maintain your estate-plan over time, including how to store and when to update your documents

With completely up-to-date information on how to navigate the new 2011 estate tax legislation, and thoughtful advice on how to handle your estate in complicated situations - like if you're single, in a same-sex relationship, or wish to provide for children with special needs - this is the estate-planning guide for today's messy and complicated world. One of the biggest estate planning mistakes people make, says Silverman, is waiting too long to start. Which is why the Wall Street Journal Complete Estate-Planning Guidebook isn't just for those planning for retirement or their golden years. It's for anyone, of any age, who wants the peace of mind of knowing that your wishes will be respected and your hard-earned money will get passed on as you would like. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Estates & Trusts

Customer Reviews

This book is brief, clear, organized, and exactly what we were looking for to prep for our first Estate Planning session. If you are looking to do complicated things with taxes, this is probably not the book for you. This is the "Monarch Review Book" of estate planning. The chapters are identified in a way that one only needs to read relevant information, and not overload on irrelevant issues. It is therefore not at all daunting.....

We are expecting our first child in early 2017 and picked up this book as we are starting to think about wills and guardianship. I expected to maybe get one or two good tidbits out of it, but I can easily say it was the most important book I read this year. Perfect for someone who has some very basic understanding but no experience of estate planning. This book touches on several important topics and is a good jumping off point for further reading or discussions with a lawyer. Very glad that I read it and will certainly keep it for referencing, as many topics will also apply further down the road.

A basic book. Very easy to read. I recommend for every one who want to start estate planning.

Written like a "For Dummies" book, cutesy and slow to get to the point. Difficult to skip what's irrelevant for your situation and get to what you need.

I had read numerous articles and other books on estate planning but this book clearly explains the difference between trusts, types of wills, life insurance and other important considerations when planning and developing an estate plan. The author uses illustrations from her own life experiences and what she learned from them. This book is very readable, straight forward, and highly informative.

This gives you a good overview, but it could use a bit more detail. I suppose that is why we all end up having to hire attorneys. It is, nevertheless, well presented, well organized, and succinct. A good starting point.

I enjoyed reading this book. It had good information and was written in a pretty simple and straight forward easy to understand manner. The personal examples the author used from her friends experiences were a nice touch also. It seems to be a little more focused on people who are fairly wealthy and providing advice and guidance on how to avoid estate tax pitfalls that most people would never have to worry about. But it does have good general information on a variety of topics. I would recommend it to friends and family.

It is a Legal consultation book about Estate Planning... I did browse a few chapters and the model described is obviously necessary.

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