



COMPASS
PLANNING ASSOCIATES

Fee-Only Financial and Investment Planning

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On Course

August 25, 2015

Volume 15, #8

Welcome! Making a will is on everyone's to-do list, as it should be. Whether you're doing your annual update or beginning the process, remember to include your digital estate – it involves so much more than just closing out your email accounts. Read on for some tips.

If you want help planning your digital estate, remember we're here to help you stay *On Course!*

-Jennifer Lane, CFP

Your Digital Estate

Your digital assets include your online financial and social media accounts. Your digital estate plan should include how you want others to handle those accounts when you are gone. Either your power of attorney (POA) or digital executor should have access to your information.

What to include

Create an inclusive list with user IDs, passwords, and URLs. Review the individual site's policies on access after death so you can leave instructions on how to handle the accounts.

- Financial accounts might include your banking and brokerage accounts, online paying systems like PayPal and Apple Pay, or retail shopping accounts.
- Social media might include Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Flickr, or YouTube.
- Other miscellaneous accounts might be websites and blogs, cloud storage, airline and other loyalty accounts, or online gaming.

What to think about

Take the time to consider what your wishes are for the short term and long term.

- Decide whether your digital executor is the same person as your executor. In some cases, it makes sense; in others, it doesn't.
- Use each social media website's policy to determine whether or not to deactivate the account. For those you want to keep active, decide in what format and for how long.

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Jennifer's Hint

Beware of estate planning software and websites; you could end up doing yourself more harm than good. Remember, your estate plan will come into action at a difficult and emotional part of your family's life – not a good time to discover an error or that there is something missing from the plan.

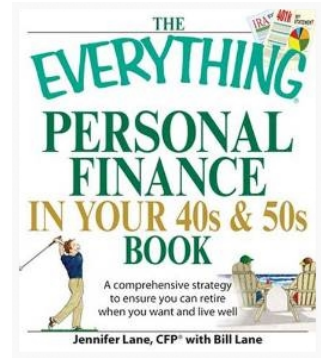
Get more tips in Jennifer's book

- As with your traditional will, communicate with those who will implement your wishes so they understand what you want and why you want it.

How to implement

Traditionally, most important papers were kept as original, hard copy documents. As with many parts of our lives, you can now store most things electronically. **Just be sure the right people have access to whatever method you chose.**

- You can keep copies of your wills, trusts, birth certificates, brokerage transactions, real estate and property documents in hard copy in either a safety deposit box or home fire-proof lock box or safe.
- You can also use an online service, such as [SecureSafe](#), to store anything from passwords to your entire estate plan with all relevant documents.



([click here for link](#))

Q&A

Q: I sell my paintings on a couple of websites so I want to include how to handle those in my digital estate plan. How do I make sure that happens.
– Joseph, Westford

A: Joseph, Massachusetts does not currently have any laws covering the handling of digital estates so you should have your estate attorney add language to your current will or create a codicil that includes your wishes.

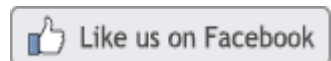
Helpful Websites

[everplans](#)

[ifidie.org](#)

[LegacyLocker](#)

[SecureSafe](#)



Pan-Mass Challenge

Jennifer had a great, hot ride in the Pan Mass earlier this month! 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Her rider profile page is [here](#) if you would like to donate.



What's New

- Jennifer recently answered NECN viewer questions about ***pets and money***. Click [here](#) to watch the segment on her blog.
- Follow us on Facebook! Visit www.facebook.com/AskJennifer and like us!
- Jennifer appears on NECN every other Monday morning at 9:30 am in addition to her Tuesday 6:30 pm appearance.

[Compass Planning Associates](#) helps families, individuals, and small-business clients achieve financial security, knowledge, and control over their money. Our **fee-only, client-centered approach** provides education and guidance for achieving financial goals and dreams.

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