Lasting Legacy

courses help families pass

baton to future generations

Are "estate planning" and "inheritance" scary, dry terms?

Do they imply the sum total of one's life can be coldly calculated in dollars and cents and legal hairsplitting overseen by people waiting in line for you to die?

A Lasting Legacy presents an alternative approach to end-of-life planning that suggests a road map for the future, embracing the meaning of your life. In historical terms, a legacy is something handed down from one generation to the next. An individual's legacy is a summation of a lifetime of achievement and the context in which that lifetime will be remembered. A legacy is not just money but your reputation, what you have done, impacts made in the world, and the people you touched.

Leaving a legacy everyone can love depends on elders and adult children being able to bridge the communication gap. Communication between generations is more vital than ever to ensure the needs of elders and heirs align. Talking about legacy can be an emotionally satisfying experience for both parents and children. Comprehensive communication gives elders and their heirs an opportunity to share their most important beliefs, wishes and directives, and lessons learned throughout their lifetime.

Legacy planning should include talking about all four components of a true legacy: values and life lessons, personal possessions of emotional value, fulfilling final wishes and instructions, and financial assets and real estate. If conversations between a parent and child do not cover all four components, the legacy transfer is not complete.

The two-CD *A Lasting Legacy* has two courses designed to create an easy-to-use process to help families pass on a true legacy to younger generations following a hands-on approach.

A Lasting Legacy captures all facets of an individual's life. Course 1 guides interested participants through 1) Methods and tools for improving intergenerational relationships, 2) Sharing values and life lessons, and 3) Passing on personal possessions of emotional value. Course 2 addresses key legacy components: preparing instructions and wishes to be fulfilled, and distributing financial assets and real estate.

Clarifying plans and explaining intentions can make otherwise contentious decisions understandable and can help avoid lasting resentments. When legacy decisions are made and then communicated to the family, research shows family members are more likely to accept the outcomes. Family members will also benefit from the special memories and stories shared in the process.

The *Lasting Legacy* courses were developed by members of the RightRisk Team, a group of risk-management educators from eight Western universities, specializing in interactive risk-management education products for agricultural producers.

Future presentations and more information about RightRisk courses are available at RightRisk.org. Requests for additional information may be e-mailed to Information@RightRisk.org.

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