

Surprenant & Beneski, P.C.

Providing Estate, Tax, Medicaid and Special Needs Planning.

PRICING SHEET

Below are some general guidelines to give you an idea of the investment for different types of planning. Every client is different. While there can be common issues, there are many differences such as client goals, mental capacity, family dynamics and the nature and complexity of the estate which affect the cost and value of planning. Estate planning pricing also considers the number of different assets, the type of assets (ex: IRAs; CDs, real estate, etc.), and how those assets are owned (ex: jointly, in trust, etc.). Each type of planning is geared to accomplish client goals. While we have categorized the planning for you here based upon a primary goal, in reality, we often create plans designed to reach multiple client goals. With all of this in mind, here are some general guidelines on the investment for some different types of planning:

Foundational Planning: This planning gives you the peace of mind of knowing that if you become ill, the people you have chosen to make your health and financial decision will have the legal ability to help you without having to seek Guardianship and/or Conservatorship in the Probate Court. Additionally, this planning passes your property to who you want it to go to at your death. The cost for Foundational Planning is usually significantly less than it would cost to obtain a Guardianship or Conservatorship. \$1,350 to \$1,950.

Probate Avoidance and Asset Protection Planning for Heirs: This planning arranges your property so that it should not need to go through the cost and delay of the Probate Court process at your death. The plan passes your property to who you want, when you want, on the terms that you want. If you desire, this plan may also protect the inheritance you leave your heirs from their creditors. \$3,500 to \$6,500.

Elder Care Journey Planning: This is planning for someone who is concerned about the cost of long term care (which averages approximately \$10,000 per month), but will likely not need that care for at least 5 years. It gives you the peace of mind of knowing that you have taken action to protect what you have worked so hard to accumulate from being depleted due to the cost of care. \$6,450 to \$8,950.

MassHealth (Medicaid) Crisis Planning: This is planning to protect as many assets as possible when a nursing home stay is imminent while simultaneously qualifying you or your loved one for MassHealth (Medicaid). Staying current in Medicaid and Elder Law allows us to protect assets in a variety of ways, including the drafting of important legal documents to implement the plan. The plan will depend on many factors, including the documents in place, the nature and amount of assets, family dynamics, health, etc. In cases of a married couple, the plan may also consider what would happen if the healthy spouses passes first. \$6,450 to \$12,950.

Estate Tax Planning: This is planning for someone with an estate valued over the \$1,000,000 Massachusetts estate tax exemption. Without planning, the estate tax due may range from approximately \$30,000 to millions of dollars. With proper planning, you can minimize or perhaps eliminate estate tax, preserving assets for your beneficiaries. \$5,450 to \$12,950+.

Special Needs Planning: This is planning to protect assets for persons with Special Needs in order to maintain their independence, achieve good care and give direction to caregivers. A Special Needs Trust may be required to maintain needs-based government benefits or to properly manage funds for your child or grandchild. This type of planning may include protection of money received from third parties, such as law suit settlements, an inheritance or even lottery winnings that ordinarily would cause the individual to be disqualified from needs-based benefits. \$3,450 to \$6,950.

At your initial consultation, we will review your goals and circumstances, then make recommendations and quote a fee. Before you get started, you will be satisfied that the financial and emotional benefits of this planning far outweigh the investment.