TANDEM WEALTH MANAGEMENT
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

October 2016

National Estate Planning Awareness Week is October 17-24th which is a great reminder to review your Estate Plan or establish one if you haven't already. The purpose of an Estate Plan is to allow you to decide who will make decisions for you if you become incapacitated and how your property will be transferred upon your death. Below is a summary of some of the important Estate Planning documents:

- **Letter of Personal Instruction:** This letter should discuss your wishes for funeral arrangements. This letter will help make a difficult time a little easier by allowing your loved ones to know that they are honoring your wishes.
- **Summary of Assets and Debt:** Creating a list of your assets and debts with specifically named institutions along with contact information can be incredibly helpful in a paperless world.
- **Will and/or a Trust:** Work with an Estate Planning attorney to help you decide what documents best fit your situation. Both of these documents state how your assets are to be divided among your heirs. Your investment accounts allow you to designate beneficiaries that the account will transfer to upon your death which will avoid Probate. Other assets such as your home will need a will or a trust depending on your individual circumstances. These documents also allow you to designate a guardian for your children if something happens to you and your spouse.
- **Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA):** This very powerful document determines who can make financial decisions on your behalf. This document terminates at your death.
- **Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPOAHC):** This document appoints who can make medical decisions on your behalf when you are unable.
- **Medical Directive or Munson's Five Wishes:** This form can clarify how you would like to receive medical treatment in the event of your incapacity. This document provides the individual listed in the DPOAHC specifics as to how you would like to receive your care or if you would like to receive life-saving measures.

We work very closely with Estate Planning attorneys and would be happy to provide a referral.

Kind regards,
Meghan

Meghan Phillips Dykstra
Investment Advisor Representative
900 East Front Street
Suite 200, Mailbox 4
Traverse City, MI 49686
phone: 231-486-6188
fax: 231-486-6191
Meghan.dykstra@securitiesamerica.com