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What Happens If You Don't Have an Estate Plan?

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Everyone with assets should have an estate plan, including a will, power of attorney and healthcare power of attorney (at minimum). Creating a plan ensures your wishes are executed upon your death.

Other benefits of creating a will include:

- Reduce taxes paid by your beneficiaries
- Protect your assets for your family, including the next generation and beyond
- Protect your assets from unwanted creditors
- Provide for disabled family members
- Deal with blended families, second marriages, etc.
- Avoid intestate costs and property distribution

"Intestate" means a person dies without creating a will. Pennsylvania law dictates what happens to your assets should you be intestate.

The following chart shows what happens to your estate if you die intestate in Pennsylvania. (20 Pa C.S. § 2102 - 2103)

IF YOU DIE WITH:	HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS:
Spouse but no descendants or parents →	Spouse inherits everything
Spouse and parents; no descendants →	Spouse inherits the first $30,0 property, plus half of the balar everything else.
Spouse and descendants from you and that spouse →	Spouse inherits the first $30,0 plus half the balance. Your de else.
Spouse and descendants from you and someone other than that spouse →	Spouse inherits half of your in descendants inherit everythin
Descendant but no spouse →	Descendants inherit everythin
Parents but no spouse or descendants →	Parents inherit everything.
Siblings but no spouse, descendants, or parents →	Siblings inherit everything
Grandparents but no spouse, descendants, parents or siblings →	Maternal grandparent(s) inher grandparent(s) inherits half, o no survivors on other side
Uncles, aunts and their children and grandchildren, but no spouse, descendants, parents, siblings or grandparents →	Uncles and aunts and the chil deceased uncles and aunts in
If none of the above →	The decedent's intestate esta Commonwealth

We can help you customize a plan based on your specific situation and what is most important to you and your family.

Contact us at 814-459-2800 to schedule a free evaluation and to learn how we can help craft an appropriate estate plan for you.



Kenzie P. Teel

Kenzie P. Teel concentrates her practice on estate planning, trust planning, estate administration, and business & tax matters.

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