

Customized Senior Services
to Maintain Lifestyle
& Financial
Independence

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A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Specializing in Elder Care,
Trusts & Estates,
Taxes & Small
Business

Certified Senior Advisor (CSA)[®] ♦ Elder Care Professional ♦ Accredited Estate Planner (AEP)

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7 Ways to Make a Senior's Day While Social Distancing

Estate Planning: 6 Things to Review Due to COVID-19

As COVID-19 evolves, social distancing is more important than ever, especially for seniors. But social distancing doesn't have to mean social isolation. Thankfully, there are many ways for loved ones to ease feelings of loneliness and stay connected with seniors during this time. These long-distance activities can help you spend quality time together, and might even take your mind off things for a while.

1.) Use FaceTime, Skype or Zoom

When you can't see your loved one in person, a video call can bring you closer together.

If you and your loved ones have smartphones, it's as easy as a FaceTime call. If not, you can use Skype or Zoom to make video calls for free. If your loved one is having a difficult time downloading the software, patiently walk them through the installation process over the phone, and you'll be connected in no time.

Once you've got video calling set up with your loved one, there are all sorts of ways you can spend quality time together. Which brings us to our next tip...

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As we navigate through these turbulent times, it may have you thinking about additions you would like to add or perhaps items you may want to remove from your estate plan. When checking on your estate plan, consider these six things:

1.) Gifting

The pandemic has made it an excellent time to start gifting because the value of the assets you decide to give away will be depressed. This gives you the opportunity to give away more without paying any gift tax. When the market recovers, the increase in value will be owned by your donee gift tax-free.

2.) Grantor Retained Annuity Trusts (GRAT)

A GRAT gives a grantor the opportunity to place assets into a trust for a certain period of time and receive an annuity payment during that time frame. According to The National Law Review, "at the end of the annuity period, any appreciation on the trust assets in excess of the monthly Internal Revenue Code Section 7520 rate will pass to the trust's ultimate beneficiaries transfer tax-free."

3.) Swaps

Have you tried a swap? By swapping, it takes low basis assets out of the trust and replaces them with assets that have a higher basis. The lower basis assets reacquired from the trust will receive a basis adjustment upon the grantor's death (via the inclusion of those assets in the grantor's estate).

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What Our Clients Say About Us

Very professional. Everyone treats you like a VIP and they are prompt when answering questions.

-DF

7 Ways to Make a Senior's Day While Social Distancing.....
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2.) Have Virtual Drinks

Set aside a weekly time to chat over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine. Though you may not be together in person, getting together for a drink can help restore a sense of normalcy, routine and fun to your day.

3.) Host a Long-Distance Dinner Party

E-mail invitations to your family, friends and, of course, your senior loved ones to join you for a virtual dinner party. And sure, this party is BYOE (bring your own entree), but it's a great way to get the family together while observing social distancing.

4.) Play Trivia Together

Trivia is a great way to get together for some fun when you're apart. Best of all, you can do this easy activity over FaceTime or just a regular phone call.

Grab your trivia cards if you have them. If you don't, use the Random Trivia Generator app or their website for free trivia questions.

5.) Connect the Kids with Their Grandparents

If the kids are home from school, set aside some time for them to connect with Grandma or Grandpa. Set up a video call so that grandparents can spend quality time with the kids while they do structured activities like arts and crafts.

6.) Challenge Them to Words with Friends

If your loved one has a smartphone or tablet and a way with words, they will love playing Words with Friends. This app is old-school Scrabble with a modern twist. It's a familiar game that's easy to play, and it allows you to join in on the fun no matter how far away you may be. Seniors can play with Facebook friends, family members and other players from all around the world.

7.) Make a Simple Phone Call

If video calls aren't an option for you or your loved one, that's okay. A simple phone call will make your loved one's day. What's most important is showing your senior that you care during this difficult time, and that even though you're apart, they're not forgotten.

Source: www.brookdale.com

Please contact our office for more information.†

"The Constitution only guarantees you the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself."

~ Benjamin Franklin

Estate Planning: 6 Things to Review Due to COVID-19
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4.) Promissory Notes

A promissory note gives you the opportunity to provide a loan to a child or other beneficiary, or to restructure loans that were made in the past that are still outstanding. Currently, the interest rate set forth by the IRS is very low, which is why you want to take advantage of it now while you can.

5.) Charitable Lead Annuity Trust

The charitable lead annuity trust is similar to the GRAT mentioned above, but it gives you the option to give back. The charitable lead annuity trust pays a fixed dollar amount to charity for up to 20 years. Just like a GRAT, at the end of the term, any appreciation on the trust assets in excess of the monthly Internal Revenue Code Section 7520 rate will pass to the trust's ultimate beneficiaries transfer tax-free. The annuity amount to charity also can be calculated so that the present value of the gift for gift tax purposes can be very low.

6.) IRA Conversions

In addition to contributing to an IRA, you can also convert your existing traditional IRAs to a Roth IRA. With a Roth IRA, it allows future earnings to remain tax-free, as well as all withdrawals by you or by your beneficiaries after your death. However, you must pay income tax now on the value of the traditional IRAs.

While the value of your IRAs may be low now, this is a good time to consider a conversion to a Roth IRA. You would pay current income tax on the temporarily lower value and then all future earnings and appreciation would be exempt from income taxation.

Source: www.mccampbellcpa.com

Please contact our office for more information.†



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