

“Here’s what I was thinking when I said “Health, Education, Maintenance and The Effectiveness of a “Direction Memo” in Modern Estate Planning

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A personal note detailing the testator’s wishes, hopes, messages to fiduciaries and heirs, is a key part of every estate plan. Yet this document, which is really the financial plan for the estate plan, rarely gets put into place. This discussion outlines an explicit definition of the purpose of a comprehensive letter of instructions, including the legal considerations of such documents. In 2020, for most clients who don’t have a taxable estate, the value of the “modern” estate planner is to provide peace of mind and clarity in lieu of the tools to mitigate federal transfer taxes. The aspiration of the presenter is the audience will be inspired to add the Direction Memo planning into their practices to provide their donors and clients more clarity in the estate planning process.