

ARE YOU A CONTROL FREAK?

By Christine Vanderford, Esq.

Control is important to almost everyone. When you get control, you fight to keep control. But have you ever thought about who is in control of making decisions if something unexpected were to happen? You may have an informal understanding for whom should do what, when and how. But what you would *like*, and how you think things *should* go, will not happen how you envision them, unless and until you *plan* for it.

The term "estate planning" does not just apply when someone passes away. Every adult in Nebraska needs to begin building an estate plan. Power of Attorney documents control who makes medical decisions for you when you are unable and who maintains general oversight of your business affairs. A Will should be created to distribute your assets and address guardianship of any minor children upon your death.

Making decisions clearly allows you to ensure your vision is honored when you are not here to do it yourself. An estate plan can be as basic or elaborate as you want it to be. The more assets you have accumulated, the more planning you will need. In some situations, more sophisticated planning is necessary to incorporate tax-saving strategies too.

Christine Vanderford is an attorney in Lincoln who enjoys working with families to build and manage well-crafted estate and/or business plans that promote control, communication, and efficiency in estate settlement and business succession. To reserve your free consultation, contact Christine's office at 421-4646. Don't forget to let her know you read her comments in this newsletter.