

## **BASIC INFORMATION EVERY WOMAN NEEDS TO KNOW...**

By Christine Vanderford, Esq.

More women are taking charge of their households' "business," with women controlling an increasing 51% of personal finances. However, many women don't know the details of their financial and estate plans. Because women, on average, outlive their husbands by 5.3 years, it is imperative for women to understand the family's finances, estate plan, etc.

- Do you have an estate plan and do you know where the documents are?
  - ❑ Powers of Attorney for Assets/Health Care
  - ❑ Living Wills
  - ❑ Last Will and Testaments
  - ❑ Revocable Trust
  - ❑ Guardianship for Children
  
- Are your planning documents organized for settlement purposes in the event of death or incapacitation?
  
- Have you communicated to your family about your plan?
  
- Do you know where your financial accounts, life insurance policies and annuities, real estate documents and business documents are?
  
- Do you participate in discussions with tax preparer/accountant during tax filing so that you know your financial situation each year?

If you cannot answer "yes" to these important questions, you need to get "in the know." It is the one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family.

Attorney Christine Vanderford enjoys working with couples to make sure they have an estate plan that makes both spouses feel comfortable. For your free estate planning consultation, contact Christine's office at 421-4646.

Information presented here has been done so for purposes of providing general information only. Individuals needing legal advice shall speak with an experienced attorney.