

ESTATE PLANNING FOR BLENDED FAMILIES & Multiple Marriages

His kids • Her kids • Our kids

Subsequent marriages present unique challenges for all participants in a blended family. Many emotional issues must be considered, such as:

- Support for surviving spouse/biological and step children
- Health care decisions.
- Control of assets used to provide financial support
- Control of co-mingled assets vs. separate assets, or control by the laws of intestate succession
- Disparity in age, or other health issues
- Disparity in assets brought into the marriage
- Pre-nuptial, post-nuptial agreements or obligations pursuant to a judgment of divorce
- Children's' inheritance from former spouses
- Provisions for adopted children and/or grandchildren
- Special inheritance or future inheritance issues
- Educational and/or investment goals of each parent for each child

The above issues are designed to give the blended family a flavor for some of the more emotional components of financial and estate planning, which are often times, more important than the tax and other cost considerations involved with transferring assets upon death. This is a general overview of the substantive issues in the estate planning process.

If you are a member of a blended family, your attorney or an attorney from the Law Office of Nettlow & Lynett P.C. will be able to discuss all aspects of putting your affairs in order, so that everyone is treated fairly, not necessarily equally, and in accordance with your wishes.