Process Podcast

Chapter 2 – Goals and Responsibilities Conversation

The second step in the process is the goals and responsibility conversation. Now, estate plans aren't boilerplate. A good estate plan is actually based upon your goals, what it is that you'd like to accomplish.

We're going to spend time talking about your loved ones, talking about how you would like to benefit them in the event of your passing, and more importantly, what you would want to have happen in the event of your disability.

For example, if you're helping support a family member, would you want that support to continue? Are you making gifts for children or grandchildren for college tuition expenses? Are there any other individuals that you're supporting? Maybe you're supporting a parent, these are all very, very important facts that if we don't know, then we won't be able to design an estate plan that's going to work for you and your family. We're going to spend quite some time on the goals conversation.

In addition, there's a responsibility conversation. You can have the best estate plan in the world, but it might fail if you've appointed the wrong parties to serve as your successor trustee, as your personal representative; that's what we call the executor here in Florida, the personal representative, as your power of attorney or as your healthcare surrogate. We're going to review with you all of the various attributes that a trustee must possess as well as the responsibilities that he or she takes on in this important role. So, the goals and responsibility conversation is one of the most important things that we accomplish with you prior to designing the best estate plan for you and your family.