

Firm helps seniors with estate planning

Transitions are often full of uncertainty – and the transition regarding your estate and your loved ones can be especially daunting, as you know you won't be present to be sure that your estate is passed intact as you wished.

But estate planning is a way of taking control and easing stress that could be involved.

"You're really doing this out of love for somebody," said Al Caicedo, principal of CKS Summit Group LLC.

Caicedo and Daniel Krug founded the firm in 1996 to help people who are nearing retirement, or who have already retired, with their financial needs.

It restricts its practice to transitional planning, offering such services as workshops as well as working closely with attorneys, accountants and brokers and other advisers of a client.

Many different issues are involved in estate planning, such as whether to create a trust. This could be important to clients who have children with special needs, or who want to set money aside for a grandchild.

"In a trust you hold your assets," Caicedo said. "The trust will hold that amount."

A growing trend is that many seniors are marrying again, or living together, Caicedo said.

"Proper planning is important," he said. "You don't want to unintentionally disinherit someone."

For example, if you have been living with someone for 10 or 15 years and want your partner to remain living in your house after your death, you should have the proper documentation.

IRAs, 401(k) plans and powers of attorney are among other issues.

If it is easier for the client, CKS will meet with the client at his or her home.

The firm will meet with heirs after a client's death to take them through the transition process, free of charge.

"We have met with children of clients who said they were amazed at how easy (estate planning) had made things for them," Caicedo said.

Call CKS Summit Group at (800) 346-5006.
