

## **Southwest Missouri Estate Planning Lawyer, Kevin Checkett of Checkett & Pauly, PC explains fees for wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and probate in Joplin and Carthage, Missouri.**

Estate planning involves a commitment of time and expense for the client. It also requires the estate planner to provide the necessary energy and expertise to bring the plan together. Whenever possible, Checkett & Pauly charges a predetermined or flat fee. The fees listed below take into consideration our time spent in the initial consultation, as well as other conferences in the office and by phone. We further taken into account the necessary time and expertise to draft and prepare all of the appropriate documents. We are not the cheapest lawyers in the Joplin and Carthage area, although our fees are competitive. We do, however, provide prompt and expert estate planning services. After all, the estate plan will preserve everything that you have worked for, paid taxes on, and saved during your lifetime. This is not a time to save a few dollars by hiring an amateur or an internet document service.

All of our estate plans include the following documents that you will find invaluable in your estate plan, items not always provided by other law firms.

- Client questionnaire and information brochure to give Checkett & Pauly a full picture of your plan and your family as well as your wants and needs.
- First draft of documents mailed to client with summary or synopsis so that you well understand the plan in spite of any legal jargon.
- Asset transfers including deeds, personal property assignments, bank and investment letters of instruction, stock transfers, and bills of sale.
- Memo on tangible personal property and family keepsakes and statutory list and bequests.
- Professional binders to keep all of your estate planning documents.
- Estate plan brochure for family.
- Estate plan summary and synopsis given to client at the conclusion of the final conference.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BASIC ESTATE PLAN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$625 Individual \$850 Couple</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Last Will &amp; Testament Durable Power of Attorney for business and healthcare Living Will Advance Healthcare Directive Durable Power of Attorney</p> <p>This is our basic estate planning package. This plan is designed for individuals or families with no minor children. You will direct the distribution of your estate but it will go through the probate process. You will also name an attorney in fact who is in charge of your financial and healthcare decisions in case of your incapacity. This plan does not avoid probate nor does it include tax planning.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FAMILY ESTATE PLAN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$825 Individual \$1,200 Couple</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Will with Testamentary Trust and Guardianship Provisions for minor Children Durable Power of Attorney for business and healthcare Living Will Advance Healthcare Directive</p> <p>This package is designed for families with minor children. In the event the parents die before their minor children reach a predetermined age, your Will &amp; Testament designates who will be the guardian to raise the children. Additionally, the Will establishes trusts for your children to receive funds for education or achievements and the principal to be paid out at the age you determine. This plan does not avoid probate nor does it include tax planning.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LIVING TRUST PACKAGE</b></p> <p>\$1,200 Individual \$1,800 Couple</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Joint Revocable Living Trust Pour-Over Will Durable Power of Attorney for business and healthcare Living Will and Advance Healthcare Directive</p> <p>This plan has all of the components of the family estate plan with the significant benefit that it avoids probate. A pour-over will is also provided to ensure that assets not transferred to the trust prior to death are conveyed to the trust later on so that nothing is forgotten. This plan also includes conveyances of all of your assets to the trust to avoid probate.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LIVING TRUST PLAN WITH TAX PLANNING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$3,500.00</p> <p>Fee may increase based on complexity of tax plan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Revocable Living Trust Pour-Over Will Durable Power of Attorney for business and healthcare Living Will Durable Power of Attorney Advance Healthcare Directive</p> <p>This plan is for married couples with assets over either the state or federal estate tax exemption limits. It avoids probate and allows the minimization of estate taxes due after the death of both spouses, and/or the deferment of state estate taxes. For families with sizeable assets, this plan can save hundreds of thousands of dollars for your family.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>POWERS OF ATTORNEY</b> <i>(ala carte)</i></p> <p>\$150.00 per power</p>	<p>The business and financial power of attorney also provides for healthcare decisions in the event that you become incapacitated.</p>

<p>LIVING WILL <i>(ala carte)</i></p> <p>\$150.00</p>	<p>A living will is an expression of your end of life wishes terminating the administration of medical care and artificial nutrition and hydration. This document contains a power of attorney to enable your representative to cease life support systems.</p>
<p>MISSOURI BENEFICIARY DEED</p> <p>\$175.00 (plus recording fees)</p>	<p>Missouri is one of a handful of states that permits the use of beneficiary deeds. A beneficiary deed offers a means to transfer Missouri real estate at the death of the owner to one or more stated beneficiaries. The benefit is that the transfer of title occurs quick and easily outside of the probate process.</p>
<p>IRREVOCABLE LIFE INSURANCE TRUST</p> <p>\$1,750.00</p>	<p>Although life insurance is generally exempt from income tax, it is still subject to estate tax. A life insurance trust can avoid both taxes, generating potentially enormous savings.</p>
<p>Pre-Marital Agreements</p> <p>\$2,500.00</p>	<p>It is important to remember that your spouse is entitled many of your assets upon your wedding date. Additionally, both spouses have rights against the other for maintenance, alimony, as well as a claim on marital assets. Upon your death, the surviving spouse has a great many rights with regard to all of your assets, often cutting out children and other family members. A pre-marital agreement is time consuming and detailed. However, it is the best form of insurance to protect assets from a spouse, particularly for a second marriage</p>
<p>House Calls \$100.00</p>	<p>The Checkett &amp; Pauly attorneys and assistants hold consultations in client homes and residential care facilities. We charge an additional fee of \$100.00 for each out of office trip.</p>

The fee is set during our first conference. One-half of the quoted fee must be paid by the client to Checkett & Pauly at the conclusion of our first consultation.

In our thirty-six years of experience we have assisted a wide variety of families in the Joplin and Carthage area. Clients are young and old, married and single, married on a number occasions, have a close family or have a dysfunctional family. Our estate planning process is not one of simply drafting forms. The value is from the advice and

experience of the attorney in evaluating your specific financial and family circumstances and preparing everything necessary to implement your final wishes while minimizing expenses, time, and taxes.