

## How Do I Get Started?

Feel free to take advantage of my free ½ hour consultation or simply give me a call and I can let you know what the current timeframes are and what your bottom line Attorney Fee will consist of.

HERE ARE SOME GENERAL QUESTIONS THAT WILL REQUIRE SOME FORETHOUGHT BEFORE OUR INITIAL MEETING:

1. Which 3 or 4 people in your life do you trust to manage your estate? Then list them in order from top to bottom.
2. Who would you trust to be guardians of your children?
3. What funeral arrangements do you desire?
4. Which 3 or 4 people in your life do you trust to make medical decisions for you? Then list them in order from top to bottom.
5. How much should I give to my children or grandchildren and should I designate how the money can be spent?

## Choose Chris Hansen because he is:

1. Honest.
2. Caring.
3. Devoted to his Clients.

Conveniently located in La Mesa  
and willing to make housecalls  
when needed.



### Law Offices of Chris Hansen, A Professional Corporation

7863 La Mesa Blvd, Ste 201  
Phone: 619-469-2667  
Fax: 619-303-4628  
Email: [chris@inclaw.com](mailto:chris@inclaw.com)

[www.IncLaw.com](http://www.IncLaw.com)

# WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES.

Law Offices of Chris Hansen,  
A Professional Corporation

*A Preventative Practitioner*



*“INTEGRITY AND TRUST;  
THAT DESCRIBES MY PRACTICE.”*



## Estate Planning

Everybody knows that they should have an estate plan but most do not know anything beyond willing their red wagons to their favorite niece and nephew.

I provide a free ½ hour consultation where the process of creating an estate plan is explained based on the person's unique set of circumstances.

**One main goal of estate planning is to avoid probate, the reasons for which are the following:**

### Avoiding Probate

Probate is a public process where a person's assets are described on forms so that anyone wishing to know what a person owned and who they willed it to (in the case of a will, otherwise California decides) can

simply go to the courthouse and make a copy of the documents.

### Another Reason to Avoid Probate.

Probate fees to the personal representative and the Representative's attorney can be expensive so that the beneficiaries may not receive all that was intended. If the gross value of the estate (not taking into account any liabilities) is \$500,000.00 then the total fees paid would be at least \$26,000.00. If a person left the estate described above and owed \$450,000.00, then instead of receiving \$50,000.00, the beneficiaries receive less than half or \$24,000.00, after subtracting the fees. If you subtract real estate commissions then the beneficiaries receive nothing.

### Yet Another Reason to Avoid Probate.

The last reason to avoid probate is the length of time it takes for the beneficiaries to receive property from estate, which usually does not occur less than a year from the date you file for probate.

## Do I Need a Will, Trust or Other Documents?

That depends on what assets you own and how those assets transfer. If you own property in California then you need a trust. The other documents you may need if you do not already have them are Powers of Attorney for financial matters and for healthcare issues, which are sometimes called advanced healthcare directives.

## What is a Power of Attorney?

This document allows the person you designate as your agent to handle your accounts and finances while you are incapacitated or for other reasons if you so choose.

## Advanced Healthcare Directives.

This document allows the person you designate as your agent to make medical decisions for you if you find yourself unconscious after fainting from an Orca saying hello to you on your Kayak.



## Can I Use Forms I find online or at the bookstore?

Yes you can but how will you know if your wishes are followed? If you "do it yourself" then chances are California will make some decisions for you that you would not have made.

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