While many believe that having loving and supportive family and friends is all that is needed to prepare for the management or transfer of assets at incapacity or death, we no longer live in a world that is quite that simple. A written estate plan is absolutely necessary for every adult who wishes to have any say in how his or her affairs are managed in the event of incapacity or death. While that plan can vary from a relatively simple writing of desires to an extraordinarily complex bundle of documents, the following three documents are essential.

**Durable Power of Attorney**

Every individual with any property or affairs that require management needs a durable power of attorney. This document contains a written authorization for another person to act on the maker’s behalf if the maker is unavailable for various reasons. This document contains a written authorization for another person to act on the maker’s behalf if the maker is unavailable for various reasons. It can also include a list of back-up agents, if the maker wishes, to step in to make legal and financial decisions. This document is an absolute necessity because, in its absence, a person’s family or friends will need to have that person declared incompetent by a judge before they will have any authority to act on that person’s behalf. That process could also result in infighting between loved ones about who should be in charge. For those

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**Learn More at our Legacy Series**

A seminar on Wills & Trusts will be offered June 6, 2018 from 7:30–9 a.m. by Sharon Iggen Hanson of Rechlicz & Hanson, LLP. Learn the basics about wills and trusts to secure your assets. Cost is $5 and includes breakfast.

Call 262-257-3769 to learn more, including how you can leave a lasting legacy that secures quality of care close to home at Community Memorial Hospital.
reasons and more, the durable power of attorney is an absolute necessity for every adult.

Health Care Power of Attorney
Every adult also needs a health care power of attorney, because a medical event could occur at any time that renders them unable to make their own decisions. The power of attorney is only effective in the event of a person’s incapacity, but is invaluable in that event because it alleviates the need for family or friends to have the person declared incompetent by a judge and, in many cases, have specific decisions approved by that judge. Once again, a relatively simple document can prevent an expensive court process, avert potential infighting and ensure a person’s wishes are carried out immediately instead of countless weeks, headaches and dollars later.

Will or Trust
Every adult with any desire to control how his or her property is managed and distributed after death needs a will or a trust, or some written substitute for one of those two documents. These documents will not only specify how a person’s property is to be managed and distributed, but will also appoint the person or people who will be in charge of the management and distribution of that property. While this appointment seems relatively benign, it can be the source of a great deal of frustration, exasperation and litigation when people do not make it clear. A clear and complete will or trust written by a professional familiar with legal and practical pitfalls in estate planning is an absolute necessity to ensure a person’s estate is administered following his or her wishes. Without a will or trust, confusion and conflict are much more likely.

With these necessary documents in mind, the next step is to meet with a wise, honest and experienced advisor to develop a personalized estate plan. Resolve to make an appointment to do just that this year to give yourself peace of mind now, and your friends and relatives peace in the future.

Free Estate Planning Guide
Community Memorial Foundation is pleased to provide the community with a free estate planning resource. Your Personal Estate Planning Guide helps you organize important personal information about your property, plans and professional advisors.

To receive a copy, call 262-257-3769 or email michelle.st.clair@froedtert.com.

Giving After Tax Reform: November 7 Legacy Seminar
Tax reform is here. You can enjoy financial benefits and make a difference in your community. Some smart ways to be charitable in 2018:

- Donate appreciated stock
- Name an organization as a beneficiary in of retirement plan assets
- Give from your IRA (if you are 70 ½ or older)

Learn more about Tax Reform & Charitable Giving at a free seminar on Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018 from 6-8 p.m. in Community Memorial Hospital’s Treiber Conference Center. Space is limited. Call Community Memorial Foundation, 262-257-3769, or email michelle.st.clair@froedtert.com to register.