After the End of Life: Your Life and Your Legacy - June 9, 2026

Your Life. Your Legacy.

An Introduction to Understanding what to do when a death occurs, how to avoid the pitfalls by preplanning, and Wills and Estate Advice

Sponsored by the independent Long-Term CareCouncils Association of BC
Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Tasha Khan-Butorac

Family Service Advisor

Tasha helps families lift the burden of funeral and memorial planning. She offers dedicated guidance for both important preplanning decisions and immediate support during a time of loss. Tasha ensures your family's needs are met with dignity and care.

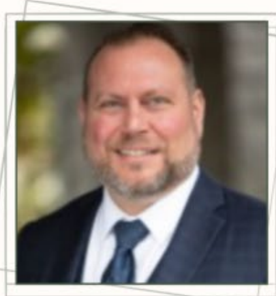
For more information on pre-planning and a complimentary Personal Planning Guide, contact Tasha at:
tasha.khan-butorac@dignitymemorial.com
(604) 226-8102

David Grant

Family Service Manager - Presenter

David Grant has over 13 years of experience in the funeral and cemetery industry with Dignity Memorial. He is dedicated to supporting families through difficult times with compassion, clarity, and care.

Passionate about easing the burden on loved ones, David also helps individuals plan ahead. Through educational seminars, he shares practical insights to help families feel prepared and at peace.



Nick Russell

Estate Lawyer

Nick is a lawyer at Westcoast Wills & Estates, a law firm with locations all around the Lower Mainland. His current practice focuses on estate and incapacity planning as well as estate administration. He assists clients with preparing wills, powers of attorney, and representation agreements, as well as applying for probate and committeeships. Nick regularly presents publicly on estate law topics such as trusts, estate planning, medical assistance in dying and probate.

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Family Council Education Session Summary

This session focused on practical steps families can take to reduce stress, ensure wishes are respected, and prepare for both incapacity and end-of-life decisions.

Why Planning Matters

Many families are forced to make important decisions within hours of a loved one's death while experiencing grief and emotional distress. Advance planning helps:

- Reduce emotional burden on family members.
- Avoid unnecessary financial stress.
- Ensure personal wishes are known and followed.
- Prevent delays and confusion when decisions must be made quickly.

For long-term care families, planning is especially important because many residents have increasing health needs and decision-making may eventually fall to family members or substitute decision-makers.

Four Important Steps for End-of-Life Planning

1. Reflect

Consider and discuss:

- Burial, cremation, or other options
- Organ or body donation wishes.
- Preferred final resting place
- Personal values and preferences

2. Record

Document important information, including:

- Personal wishes
- Family contacts
- Financial information
- Vital statistics needed after death

3. Secure

Arrange legal and financial matters in advance whenever possible, including:

- Funeral or memorial planning
- Estate planning documents
- Financial arrangements

4. Share

Ensure trusted family members know:

- What plans have been made
- Where important documents are stored
- Who has decision-making authority

Estate Planning Is More Than a Will

A complete estate plan typically includes:

A Will

A will directs how assets will be distributed and identifies who will administer the estate.

Power of Attorney (POA)

Allows someone to manage financial and legal affairs if a person becomes incapable of doing so themselves.

Key takeaway: Without a POA, families may need to seek a court-appointed committeeship, which can be costly, time-consuming, and stressful.

Representation Agreement

Allows someone to make personal and health-care decisions if a person loses capacity.

This document can guide decisions regarding:

- Medical treatment

- Living arrangements
- End-of-life care.
- Personal preferences and values

Important for Long-Term Care Families

Families were encouraged to:

- Ensure Powers of Attorney and Representation Agreements are completed before they are needed.
- Provide copies of Representation Agreements to physicians and care providers.
- Review documents regularly to confirm they still reflect current wishes.
- Confirm substitute decision-makers understand the resident's values and preferences.

Understanding How Assets Transfer

Not all assets are distributed through a will.

Some assets may pass directly through:

- Beneficiary designations (RRSPs, TFSAs, pensions, life insurance)
- Joint ownership arrangements

Because every situation is different, families should seek legal advice before making changes to ownership of property or financial accounts.

Capacity Concerns

Families often struggle when a loved one appears incapable in daily life but can still present well during medical appointments.

The session highlighted:

- The importance of obtaining legal advice early when capacity concerns arise.
- Independent capacity assessments may be available when additional evaluation is required.
- Early planning can help avoid difficult legal and financial situations later.

Leaving More Than Assets: Your Legacy

Families were introduced to the concept of an **ethical will** - a non-legal document that shares:

- Life lessons
- Personal values
- Family stories
- Hopes and wishes for future generations.

Many families find that these personal messages become treasured keepsakes after a loved one's death.

Key Recommendations for Caregivers

✓ Have a current will.

✓ Complete a Power of Attorney and Representation Agreement.

✓ Ensure key documents are accessible and shared with trusted individuals.

✓ Discuss end-of-life wishes before a crisis occurs.

✓ Review plans regularly as circumstances change.

✓ Consider documenting personal stories, values, and messages for future generations.

Final Thought

One of the strongest messages from the session was that planning is a gift to those who will one day be asked to make difficult decisions. Taking time now to document wishes, appoint decision-makers, and organize important information can significantly reduce stress and uncertainty for families during some of life's most challenging moments.

Documents:

- Speaker: David Grant, Dignity Memorial: The Insider's Guide
- Speaker: Tasha Khan-Butorac Bio

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