

# Top 10 Estate Planning Actions for Montanans

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## Action 1

**Grant another person authority to make financial decisions for you with a Power of Attorney.**

To learn more: [www.montana.edu/estateplanning](http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning)

- **Power of Attorney:** Explains how to give another person authority to make financial decisions for you through a legal document known as a power of attorney in case you become incapacitated.
  - Power of Attorney Statutory Form (Financial)
  - Agent Certification Statutory Form (Financial)



Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



## Action 2

**Write a will to transfer your real property & financial accounts and a separate listing to transfer your non-titled property.**

To learn more: [www.montana.edu/estateplanning](http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning)

- **Wills:** Outlines why and how to construct a will, including costs, restrictions and changes after its completion.
- **Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate? Transferring Non-Titled Property:** Explains how to deal with some of the issues that may arise with the transfer of non-titled property such as photographs and other family heirlooms among family members.



Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



## Action 3

**Nominate a personal representative for your estate; also nominate a guardian and conservators for your children.**



To learn more: [www.montana.edu/estateplanning](http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning)

- **Personal Representative Responsibilities:** Explains Montana law covering the duties of a personal representative in settling an estate (often called 'executor' in other states).
- **Estate Planning for Minor and/or Special Needs Children:** Explains how to provide for children's physical and financial care in case of parents death. Includes special instructions concerning special needs children and stepchildren.



Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



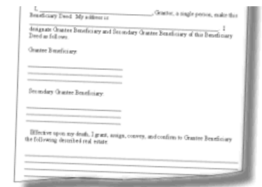
## Action 4

**Explore whether a Transfer on Death Deed would meet your estate planning goals.**



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- **Transfer on Death Deeds:** Explains how Transfer on Death Deeds allow owners of real property in Montana to transfer their property to one or more beneficiaries without probate.
  - Revocable Transfer on Death Form
  - Revocation of Transfer on Death Deed
  - Affidavit of Death



Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



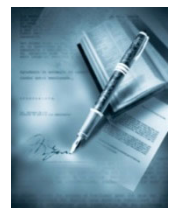
## Action 5

**Explore whether a Payable on Death Designation (POD) on your financial accounts and a Transfer on Death Registration (TOD) on security accounts would meet your estate planning goals.**



To learn more: [www.montana.edu/estateplanning](http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning)

- **Nonprobate Transfers:** Describes the various forms of ownership that allow the deceased's property to bypass probate and transfer directly to beneficiaries. Includes uniform single or multiple-part account form.



Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



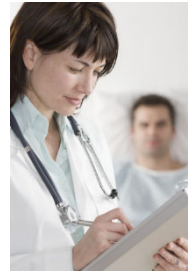
## Action 6

### Make a Declaration (Living Will).

To learn more: [www.montana.edu/estateplanning](http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning)



- **Montana Rights of Terminally Ill Act:** Describes how you (or someone selected by you) can choose to terminate your medical treatment, should you have an incurable and irreversible condition that would lead to death without treatment.
  - Declaration (Direct Physician to Withhold)
  - Declaration (Designating Another Individual To Make Decision)



Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



## Action 7

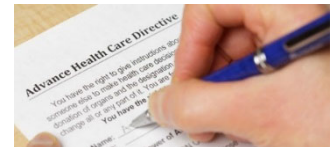
### Securely store your advance directives at the Montana End-of-Life Registry.

To learn more: [www.montana.edu/estateplanning](http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning)



- **Montana End-of Life Registry:** Answers commonly asked questions about the Montana End-of-Life Registry.

Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



## Action 8

### Provide essential information in a Letter of Last Instruction.

To learn more: [www.montana.edu/estateplanning](http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning)



- **Letter of Last Instructions:** Explains what should be included in a letter of last instructions to assist survivors so they can find important papers and documents

To learn more: [www.montana.edu/familyeconomics](http://www.montana.edu/familyeconomics)

- **Your Important Papers: What to Keep and Where:**

This guide offers a personalized and efficient system for preserving and safeguarding important family papers. Also provides a handy reference for deciding what items to keep.

- **Record of Important Papers (eXtension)**

This interactive form is provided by eXtension in the Legally Secure Your Financial Future, a self-study curriculum, to help organize important papers, communicate wishes about legal and other issues, and prepare financial affairs.



Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



## Action 9

Provide instructions for disposing of your remains upon your death.

To learn more: [www.montana.edu/estateplanning](http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning)



- **What Are Your Rights Over Your Remains?:** The Montana Right of Disposition Act that allows a person to provide instructions for disposing of his or her remains or to designate an agent with authority to make such decisions.
- **Cremation:** Focuses on the option of cremation and explores personal and family concerns, state and federal regulations, and costs.



Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



## Action 10

Decide if any of the following estate planning tools would be appropriate for your situation.

To learn more: [www.montana.edu/estateplanning](http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning)



Read Date

- \_\_\_\_\_ ■ Life Insurance: An Estate Planning Tool
- \_\_\_\_\_ ■ Life Estate: A Useful Estate Planning Tool
- \_\_\_\_\_ ■ Long-Term Care Partnership Insurance in Montana
- \_\_\_\_\_ ■ Annuities
- \_\_\_\_\_ ■ Revocable Living Trusts
- \_\_\_\_\_ ■ Montana Medical Care Savings Accounts (MSAs)



Date Accomplished: \_\_\_\_\_



Notes: