BEACH CITIES®
ESTATE LAW

MAY 2026



YOU PLANNED FOR BUSINESS GROWTH ...

Have You Planned for the Unexpected?

If you couldn't step into your business tomorrow, what would happen next?

It's a simple question, but for many business owners, the answer isn't. Your business relies on more than systems; it relies on you, your decisions, your relationships, and your leadership. Yet while most owners plan for growth, far fewer plan for what happens if they can't lead.

That's where thoughtful estate planning becomes essential, not just for your family, but for the future of the business you've worked so hard to build.

In honor of National Small Business Month, it's an opportune time to revisit some of the unique planning considerations that come with business ownership, especially if it's been a while since you created your plan.

Who steps in?

One of the most important questions to consider is what happens in the event of incapacity. If you were suddenly unable to work, would your business continue to function smoothly?

Payroll, expenses, and client obligations don't pause. Disability insurance can help financially, but someone still needs to step in, access accounts, sign documents, and keep things running. Even with legal authority in place, delays can happen if no one is clearly positioned to act.

Is your business properly tied to your estate plan?

Another key piece is ensuring your business and estate plan are properly aligned. For many clients, this includes formally assigning ownership interests, such as shares in a corporation or membership in an LLC, to their trust.

Without this step, your business interest may not be governed by your broader plan, potentially leading to unnecessary complications.

Is there a hidden administrative burden?

Beyond ownership, you need to consider administrative realities. If someone steps into your role, whether due to incapacity or death, they may need to complete corporate formalities, update records, or file documents with the state to be recognized as an authorized decision-maker.

These steps can be time-sensitive and, without preparation, burdensome for the people you're relying on, especially during an already stressful time.

What happens to the business long term?

Consider the bigger-picture question: What do you actually want to happen to the business?

Some owners want the business sold and the proceeds distributed to beneficiaries. Others hope it continues under the leadership

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TEEN TESTS A TINY HOME SOLUTION

YOUTH INNOVATION AIMED AT ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

In London, Ontario, an 18-year-old is getting ready to spend a year in a tiny house he designed himself. His name is Ribal Zebian, and you might recognize it from the headlines he made for an electric wooden car he built while still in high school. Now, his focus has shifted to a different challenge in his hometown. About 1,800 people in London are currently experiencing homelessness, and that number continues to rise. Zebian hopes to contribute another tool to the growing list of potential solutions.



He has designed a modular home that can be assembled in a single day, is affordable, and offers a protective, aesthetically pleasing design. The current design is built from fiberglass panels with a PET foam core, which also helps insulate and support the roof. Right now, the model is a small 8x8-foot shelter, but he says the same design can be scaled up to create larger units.

Inside, the prototype is deliberately basic. It's a secure, compact space with enough room for a bed and a place to store essentials. Zebian wants it to feel like a room someone could actually live in, not a storage bin with a mattress thrown in. The fiberglass and PET foam used for the walls and roof help reduce drafts and retain heat during cold Canadian winters.

Beginning this month, Zebian plans to test the design's effectiveness by staying in the house for a full year. He wants to see how it handles summer heat, wet spring weather, and deep-freeze temperatures. That experience will guide the next version and, he hopes, make the design more sturdy and long-lasting.

Zebian knows his tiny house isn't a solution to homelessness. The long-term answers involve a variety of factors, including more affordable housing and better access to support and mental health services. But what his idea can offer is a safer step between a tent and a permanent home. If cities or nonprofits can quickly place a cluster of these units, it could give people a warm, private place to stay while they work on the rest of their lives.

OZEMPIC FOR CATS?

How GLP-1s Could Help Pets Slim Down

Though we love our pets no matter what, sometimes the extra treats lead to extra pounds and a visit to the veterinarian for weight-loss recommendations. Could the latest GLP-1 medications, so popular for humans, officially be "going to the dogs" … and the cats, too? If your furry friend could stand to shed some mass, here's the latest study worth purring about.

Feline Findings

San Francisco-based Okava Pharmaceuticals is currently conducting the first-ever clinical trial of GLP-1 weight-loss therapy for household pets. Named MEOW-1, the study aims to determine whether chunky cats can slim down with a miniature implant under the skin that continuously delivers GLP-1 for six months. They will monitor up to 50 cats with the implant and check their weight at three months. Okava's GLP-1 is called exenatide, which is a different variety than popular weight loss drugs for humans like Ozempic, which uses semaglutide.

Whisker Wellness

Kitty obesity is a common problem, with over 50% of household cats in the U.S. being overweight. Just as it does for humans, weight management can extend our pets' lives and reduce serious health issues like joint pain and diabetes. Okava believes that GLP-1 could offer benefits, such as better heart health and reduced inflammation, for pets that are even more effective than switching their diet and starting an exercise routine.



Timeline Tails

So, what does the future hold for pet weight loss medications, and does MEOW-1 mean you may soon be able to buy GLP-1s for your cat or dog? Okava hopes to seek FDA approval between 2027 and 2028 and is already planning to study dogs next. They hope to make the product available for about $100 per month out of pocket. However, experts say large clinical trials are still needed, and it's uncertain if the drugs can feasibly come in at a price point pet owners are willing to pay.

TAKE A *BREAK*

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BLOOM
CINCO
COMIC
DERBY
EMERALD
GEMINI
GRADUATION
LILY
MEMORIAL
MOTHER
RENEWAL
VETERANS



Shrimp Taco Soup

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp chili powder
- 1 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 2 1/2 tsp kosher salt, divided
- Black pepper, to taste
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 (28 oz) can crushed tomatoes
- 2 tsp agave
- 2 cups water
- 1 (15 oz) can black beans, drained
- 10 oz frozen corn
- 1 lb large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- Jalapeño slices, chopped cilantro, Greek yogurt, crushed tortilla chips, and lime wedges, for toppings as desired

Directions

1. In a small bowl, mix chili powder, cumin, garlic powder, onion powder, 1 tsp salt, and pepper.
2. In a large pot, heat oil over medium-high heat, then add onion and peppers; cook 5–6 minutes.
3. Stir in seasoning mix.
4. Add tomatoes, agave, water, remaining salt, and more pepper to taste. Let simmer for 15 minutes.
5. Stir in beans and corn, then add shrimp.
6. Cook 4–5 minutes, until shrimp are cooked through.
7. Add desired toppings before serving.

Inspired by FoodNetwork.com

... continued from Cover

of a family member, business partner, or trusted employee.

If you have co-owners, this is critical. Without a clear agreement, your partner could end up in business with your spouse or children. A buy-sell agreement, often funded by insurance, creates a clear, fair path forward.

What about balancing family dynamics?

Family dynamics can also lead to complications. A common scenario is a family business in which one child is actively involved and others are not. Equal distribution may not always feel fair in practice. The child running the business may need autonomy to succeed, while others may prefer different assets or compensation. Thoughtful planning can balance these interests, sometimes using tools like life insurance to create equity without forcing shared control.

Do you need a separate business decision-maker?

It's also worth considering whether the same person should manage your business and handle your personal estate. In certain situations, appointing a separate "business trustee" or decision-maker can make sense, especially when the required skill sets are very different.

Are you overlooking your business agreements?

Don't overlook the fine print in your business agreements. Transfer restrictions may prevent beneficiaries from stepping into your role. Regular reviews and ensuring buy-sell agreements are signed and updated can help avoid unwelcome surprises.

If you've already worked with us to create your estate plan, chances are we've addressed many of these issues. But businesses evolve. They grow, take on new partners, or shift direction. That's why it's worth revisiting your plan periodically to make sure it still reflects your current reality.

Your business is more than an asset; it's a legacy. Taking the time to plan for its future is one of the most important steps you can take to protect everything you've built.

- Angela Klenk

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You Secured Your Accounts

But Did You Plan for Access Later?



Today, a tremendous portion of our lives exists online. Bank accounts, investment portals, photo libraries, business tools, medical records, and even sentimental emails are all locked behind passwords and verification codes. But when ***two-step verification*** is turned on, those accounts can become permanently sealed after you're gone.

Two-step verification (often called two-factor authentication) is the extra security step many websites and apps now require when you log in. You enter your password, then you're asked to confirm your identity a second way, usually through a one-time code sent to your phone, email, or an authentication app. It's designed to keep hackers out, and during your lifetime, it does a great job of that.

The problem occurs when that protection creates a mess for your loved ones later. Even when an executor or family member has the legal right to manage your affairs, they may still hit a wall. A code is sent to a phone that's no longer active. An authentication app is tied to a device that no one can unlock. This can leave loved ones frustrated, facing delays, and sometimes important information or assets that were never meant to disappear get lost.

That's why digital planning has become a critical part of modern estate planning. It's no longer enough to list your accounts or write down a few passwords. You need a clear plan for how digital access works, who is allowed to step in, and what should happen to those security features when you're no longer able to use them yourself.

A solid approach includes keeping an updated inventory of your digital accounts, choosing someone you trust to manage them, ***and storing access instructions in a secure but discoverable place.*** Just as important, your estate documents should clearly authorize that trusted person to manage your online accounts and to follow platform rules when access is needed.

Two-step verification is smart. Planning for it is smarter. With a little foresight, you can protect your digital life now and make things far easier for the people you leave behind.