

BUSINESS PLANNING



Did you know the majority of businesses in the U.S. are **closely held businesses?**

Many business owners fail to plan for the future stability of their business, their finances, and their employees if something unexpected were to happen to them. Here is some information that might be helpful as you consider planning for your business interests:

Every company goes through multiple phases in business. In every phase, there are different considerations for planning around the owner's, the company's, and the employee's interests. Here are some of the common issues that every business should plan for:

Deciding on the **Right Business Structure**

With the assistance of legal counsel, you should decide what business structure will serve you best based on your tax situation, need for asset protection, branding and marketing, and ease of maintaining your company structure on an annual basis. You should also plan around the potential risks of:

- ✓ **Death of an Owner or Key Employee**
- ✓ **Disability**
- ✓ **Divorce**
- ✓ **Dementia or Incapacity**
- ✓ **Dissolution by the partners or shareholders of the business**



These issues are addressed in several documents including your corporate governing documents in the case of registered entities, your personal estate planning documents, and stand-alone business succession planning documents. If you have never considered these types of documents, you should consult with competent legal counsel and, if you have these documents, you will want to make sure that they all coordinate with one another.

Also consider:

- ✓ What retirement planning and tax planning have you done as a business owner?
- ✓ What employee benefits program do you need or want to offer?
- ✓ What type of liability protection should you be covering with insurance options?
- ✓ What kind of legacy are you leaving in business?

If you have questions or are interested in a consultation, feel free to contact our professional network through your financial advisor/representative Christine Ayonga.
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