



October 2019

## The Importance of Reviewing Your Trust

As time passes, circumstances change and very often those circumstances affect the estate plan. Every so often, you should set time aside to review your estate plan to ensure it still meets your needs. Some things to consider are:

- Are the trustees named to wind down your estate still the appropriate individuals for this role? (Perhaps they've moved, have health issues, or your relationship is not as close as it once was)
- Who have you named to manage your finances in the event of incapacity?
- Does your trust provide for creditor or spousal protection for your children's future inheritance?
- Have you recently married or gotten engaged? (if so, your estate planning attorney should immediately be consulted)
- Are your assets properly titled in the name of your trust?
- Are your retirement assets designated such that they will pass to your children in the most tax efficient manner, allowing for them to stretch the benefits over their lifetime while also having creditor protection?

We can't stress enough the importance of reviewing your estate plan. Each year, we set aside a limited number of complimentary consultations for the purpose of reviewing our existing clients' estate plans. If you have not had your estate plan reviewed in the last three years, we are extending to you a complimentary consultation with an estate planning attorney to review your estate plan and ensure that it is still current and meets your needs. Appointments are scheduled on a first come, first served, basis. Please call (714) 282-7488 and mention this newsletter in order to schedule your complimentary review.



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# Halloween Décor DIY



Halloween can be extra fun this year with a few little things that make the whole night seem a little more spooky fun! Like Jack O lantern light covers for your outdoor lights! Here is what you need:

- Plastic Jack O lantern buckets
- Scissors
- Maybe some heavy tape (Like Duct Tape that can be easily removed with out damaging the wall around the light fixture.

For full instructions:

<https://oneonroom.com/diy-halloween-wreaths-ideas-cute-outdoor-halloween-decorations/diy-halloween-wreaths-ideas-cute-outdoor-halloween-decorations-59/#main>

## Pumpkin Soup Recipe

For full instructions:

<https://www.savorynothings.com/easy-pumpkin-soup/>

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 medium onion roughly diced
- 1 carrot peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 small sweet potato peeled and roughly chopped
- 2 pounds pumpkin peeled and deseeded, roughly chopped
- 5 cups water OR chicken stock
- 1/2 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg or less if you're not a huge fan
- Salt + pepper to taste
- 1 bay leaf
- Cream to taste (optional)



### DIRECTIONS

1. Sauté the vegetables: Melt the butter in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the onion, carrot, sweet potato and pumpkin and cook for 2-3 minutes.
2. Season the soup: Season with brown sugar, nutmeg, cumin, ginger, salt and pepper. Roast the vegetables for another 3-4 minutes, stirring from time to time, until they are starting to soften and brown.
3. Cook the soup: Pour the chicken stock over the vegetables. Add the bay leaf and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes.
4. Blend the soup: Take the pot off the heat and blend the soup until smooth. I like to use a stick blender when I'm short on time, but you can use a regular blender according to your manufacturer's instructions for hot liquids.
5. Finish the soup: Add the soup back over medium heat and heat through. Stir in cream to thin to your desired consistency, if desired. Warm for 2-3 minutes, then serve hot.

## ***JOINT TENANCY: SHOULD I HOLD TITLE TO MY HOME AS JOINT TENANCY?***

**J**oint tenancy is a very popular manner of holding title to real estate or other assets (such as bank accounts). However, the manner of title has serious ramifications when it comes to what happens to that asset at the time of your death. In the case of real estate, joint tenancy means that all of the owners have a joint and equal interest to the property, and that as each joint tenant dies, his or her respective share of the property passes equally to the surviving joint tenants – without probate or court involvement. However, the problem is that when the last man standing remains on title, with no other surviving joint tenants, the death of the final joint tenant will require a probate and the real estate will eventually pass to the heirs of the surviving joint tenant (unless their Will or Trust provides otherwise).



For this reason, joint tenancy can be somewhat of a wildcard, and depending on who dies first, the ultimate recipients of the real estate can wildly vary. For this reason, we recommend that a living trust be created, and that the real estate be owned by the trust, instead of as joint tenants. The trust offers clarity on what happens at the first owner's death and what happens at the final owner's death – and also avoids probate. There are also tax benefits to holding title to real estate in the trust



name (when the real estate is the community property asset of both spouses) since the real estate can receive a 100% step up in basis at the death of each spouse, instead of just a 50% step up in basis which typically occurs with joint tenancy.



## Remember to Sign Up for October Family Days!

### OCTOBER FAMILY DAYS 2019

- Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:30am-11:30am & 1pm-3pm
- Thursday, October 10, 2019 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- Saturday, October 19, 2019 9:30am-11:30am & 1pm-3pm



### What is in Season in October?

#### What's in Season for October?



**Pumpkins**

Apples  
Avocados  
Bananas  
Beets  
Bok Choy  
Broccoli  
Brussels Sprouts  
Carrots  
Cauliflower  
Celery



**Pears**

Corn  
Cranberries  
Eggplant  
Grapes  
Greens  
Leeks  
Lemons/Limes  
Mango  
Melons  
Mushrooms



**Kiwi**

Okra  
Pomegranates  
Potatoes  
Raspberries  
Rutabagas  
Strawberries  
Sweet Onions  
Sweet Potatoes  
Turnips  
Winter Squashes

Visit [ProduceforKids.com](http://ProduceforKids.com) for more info & recipes!



We hope that you have had the very best experience with our firm! And we hope that you would consider referring a friend that we may be able to help the same way we helped you! Getting a referral from a customer gives us a lot of pride! It shows us that we did a good job and our clients appreciate us!

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