EASTMAN TRUSTS
EASTMAN ESTATE PLANNING, PLLC
Protecting legacies, one family at a time.

Thursday, August 27th @ 10:00am - 11:30am:
Smart Moves for a Secure Future (Brunch Served)
Grandview Terrace - 14515 W. Granite Valley Drive, Sun City, AZ
Attorney: Dave Eastman
RSVP: Alisa @ (602) 610-1034 or aneedler@eastmantrusts.com

Wednesday, September 16th @ 10:00am- 12:00pm:
"What Happens To Your Estate When You Die?"
PORA: 13815 W. Camino Del Sol, Sun City West, AZ 85375
Attorney(s): Dave Eastman & Darren Richardson

Client Appreciation Event
November 5th, 2026

more info to come

August

Estate Planning for Your Pets

Those who have pets know firsthand how strong a bond can be developed between humans and animals. Have you ever thought about what would happen to your furry or feathered companion if something happened to you? Every year, more than 500k pets are abandoned due to the death or disability of their owners. With a little planning, those pets could have been protected.

There is a number of reasons why you should include your pet in your estate plan. As a first step, you should designate someone to take care of your pet if you pass away or become incapacitated. The second thing you should do is provide clear instructions for the care of your pet. As a third consideration, you should leave sufficient funds to ensure that your pet receives the best care possible.

When it comes to including your pet in your estate plan, it's a little different than including your children. For one thing, your pets can not own your property. Further, when including your pets in your estate plan, it is important to ensure that the person you have chosen to care for your pets understands the responsibilities for caring for your pet, and is willing and able to take on the role of a caregiver. If you don't have a friend or family member who is willing to take care of your pet in the event of your death, you still have options. You may want to research local animal shelters, adoption centers and rescue groups. If sufficient funds are allocated for the care of the pet, some of these facilities will accept pets that are donated through trusts and they offer perpetual care for them until a devoted home can be found. Another alternative is to look for a pet retirement home in your area. The level of care provided by pet retirement homes tends to range from high quality to luxurious.

Ways to ensure that your pet will be cared for after you have passed:

Trust or Will

Include a provision in your Trust or Will, along with a gift of money or property to cover the cost of your pet's care, directing your pet's care to a family member or friend. This is the most simple and straightforward method. It is great when you are confident that your

caregiver is trustworthy, responsible and will follow the instructions you have left for your pet. The only potential issue is that there is no oversight for your caregiver, or that your pet will be cared for as you have instructed.

Pet Trust

Another option is to setup a Pet Trust, whether as part of your trust, or a separate trust. These trusts are not just for the rich and famous! Having a Pet Trust allows you to have more control over the fate of your pet after you have passed. In a Pet Trust, you are able to name a Caregiver, who will care for your pets, and a Trustee, who will manage the money in the Pet Trust and ensure that the Caregiver is caring for your pet properly.

Financial Powers of Attorney

You may also want to consider including a provision in your Financial Power of Attorney that allows your Agent to provide money to your designated Caregiver for the care of your pets if you are incapacitated. If you do not have a Will or a Trust, your Financial Power of Attorney could include provisions that allow your Agent to locate a suitable home for your pet.

Planning for your Pets Lifetime

In addition to including a provision in your Trust or Will, you will want to include with your estate planning documents a “Pet Information” sheet. This sheet would list feeding information, vet information, and personality or behavior information.

You may also want to include in your wallet a note that you have pets and who to contact if you are incapacitated, or should pass away unexpectedly.

As with other important estate planning decisions, it is wise to explore your pet planning options with an experienced estate planning attorney from Eastman Estate Planning. We will help you pick the planning method that best meets your needs, so that you can be confident your pet will continue to enjoy a happy, healthy life after your death.

August

Beyond the Bio:
Donna Schubert

Working at Eastman Estate Planning is a rewarding experience every day. As a paralegal with more than forty years of experience, I have not only witnessed the many changes in the legal field, but have also experienced tremendous personal growth. One of the most meaningful aspects of my career has been working with our clients and their families through trust administrations and probate matters. The bond I am able to build with each client is truly amazing. I sincerely cherish every one of our clients and have deep empathy for the challenges they face during such a stressful and emotional time. It is an honor to guide and support them through each stage of the process.

Here are a few highlights about me:

I was born in Denver, Colorado and moved with my family in third grade to Bellevue, Washington. I am the youngest of five children, and I have a son who is forty-five and a daughter who is forty. I have three grandchildren; a twenty-five year old grandson and a twenty-two year old granddaughter from my son, and a thirteen year old grandson with autism, who has taught me to be patient and appreciate the small things in life, from my daughter and her husband.

I am a morning person. I love getting up early and having time to walk and watch the sunrise, catch up on YouTube videos, and watch the latest fashion videos with a cup of coffee. It is rare for me to sleep past 4:00 a.m.

I love fall—everything from the cozy clothing and boots to the beautiful colors and comforting smells. Spending time with my family is especially important to me, whether it's wearing matching pajamas, enjoying our traditional German Christmas Eve breakfast, or planning our annual Black Friday shopping adventure. My daughter and I love getting up before dawn to be first in line, and it's the laughter, unexpected conversations, and memorable people we meet that make it such a fun tradition.

Some of my favorite experiences include horseback riding, attending ballet performances, swimming with dolphins in Hawaii, kite skiing, zip-lining over wildlife, hiking throughout Washington with my camera, and even learning to weld to create custom railings and entrance gates for a previous home.

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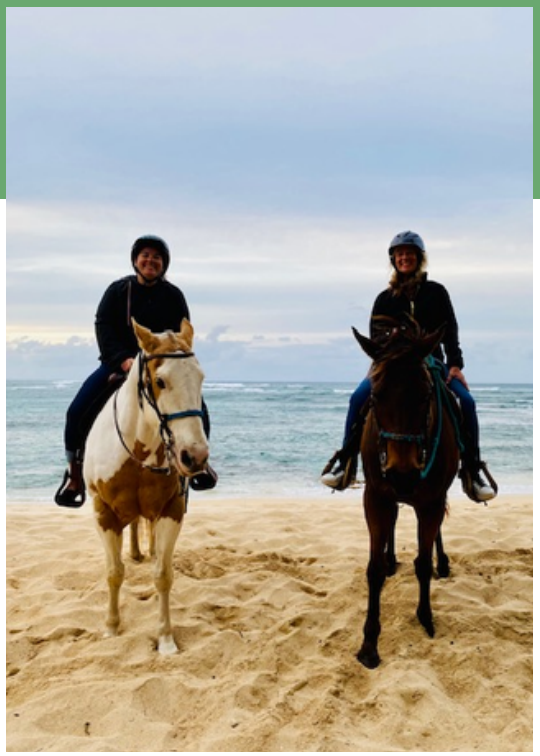

My passion is learning how to do new things, and I'm the go-to person for family and friends when they need help with decorating, sewing, European fashion trends, home remodeling, or home remedies. You'll usually find me reading books, watching educational programs, or taking classes to learn something new. I enjoy solving problems and moving on to the next challenge. My family and friends often describe me as a problem solver and a "magic fix-it" person in just about every area of life.

My bucket list includes a mix of dreams that are still possible and some that circumstances have changed. One dream I am grateful to finally fulfill is taking my first vacation with both of my children—a trip that was never possible when I was a single mom working and attending school full time. I am excited that this will finally happen in October of this year.

Other dreams include attending the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York, watching my favorite designers' collections on the runway, barrel racing, creating large abstract glass pieces, and designing my own clothing line. I would have loved to share that last dream with my husband, who appreciated fashion and loved everything I created and wore. Sadly, he passed away four months ago. While I would have cherished sharing those moments with him, what I would treasure most is having just one more hour to talk, say goodbye, and share the things left unsaid.

As I enter this new chapter of my life, the advice I would give my younger self is to embrace every moment, follow your dreams, and never allow fear or the opinions of others to keep you from pursuing the life you truly desire.

August

Grilled Peach, Burrata & Basil Salad

- 4 ripe peaches, halved and grilled
- 2 balls burrata cheese
- Fresh basil leaves
- Arugula or mixed greens
- Toasted pistachios or almonds
- Olive oil
- Balsamic glaze (Trader Joe's has a great one)
- Flaky salt and pepper

Directions:

1. Grill peach halves 2–3 minutes per side until lightly charred.
2. Arrange greens, burrata, and peaches on a platter.
3. Drizzle with olive oil and balsamic glaze.
4. Finish with basil, nuts, salt, and pepper.

Pro Tip: How to choose a ripe, juicy peach

- Smell it first: A ripe peach should have a sweet, fragrant peach aroma near the stem end. If it has little or no smell, it was likely picked early and may not develop much flavor.
- Give it a gentle squeeze: Hold it in your palm and press lightly with your fingers (don't squeeze with your fingertips). A good peach should have a little give but not feel mushy. Rock-hard peaches usually need several days to ripen.
- Look at the color: Choose peaches with a deep golden or yellow background color (for yellow peaches). A red-blush color is attractive but does not necessarily mean it is ripe.
- Check the skin: Look for smooth, unbroken skin.
- Avoid peaches with: large bruised spots, wrinkling, leaking juice, soft sunken areas
- Look at the stem area: The area around the stem should look healthy and smell sweet.
- A greenish tint around the stem can indicate under-ripeness.