



## Don't Be a Statistic: Advice on Estate Planning

Did you know the [Great Iowa Treasure Hunt](#) holds many unclaimed properties for deceased Iowans? I know estate planning can be a sensitive topic to discuss with family, but it's one of the most efficient ways to ensure your money goes to the people or organizations you choose. By taking these proper steps, you can avoid making a difficult time even more complicated.

Financial institutions or businesses may not be aware of certain life events – such as change of address, marriage, divorce or death – which can result in the money being deemed 'lost'. There have been many instances in which a family member has had a safe deposit box or life insurance policy nobody knew about. I encourage Iowans to take the time now to plan with these tips:

Download and complete the [Vital Statistics document](#) from my website to provide direction and guidance for your loved ones. In the event of your death, it is important your loved ones know where to find this document.

1. Make sure you have a will on record and designate the beneficiaries of your estate. Otherwise, a court could be left to decide the fate of your funds.
2. Designate individuals for different roles as needed: power of attorney, executor, trustees, etc. These roles come with a lot responsibility, so consider your designations carefully.

Estate planning conversations can aid in preventing these 'lost' funds from being reported as unclaimed property by informing loved ones of your assets and financial plans. With proper planning, you can ensure your accounts and property do not end up in the [Great Iowa Treasure Hunt](#).

[Vital Statistics Document](#)