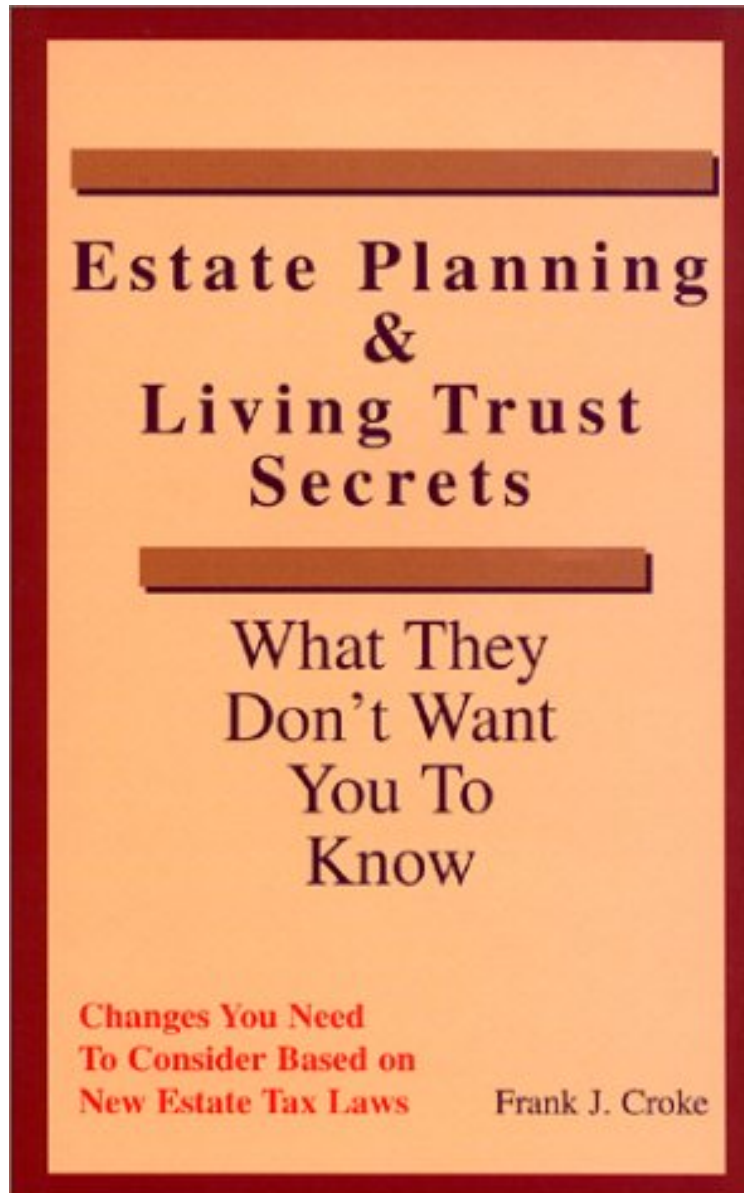


[Free] Estate Planning Living Trust Secrets : What They Don't Want You to Know

Estate Planning Living Trust Secrets : What They Don't Want You to Know

Frank J. Croke

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Frank J. Croke : Estate Planning Living Trust Secrets : What They Don't Want You to Know before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Estate Planning Living Trust Secrets : What They Don't Want You to Know:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This is a great Book By Tom Shaw I just had my trust prepared by a very fine trust attorney. The trust contains many of the recommendations from this book. So you can understand my concern when a friend told me about the negative review by a Toledo trust attorney. I showed the review to my attorney and his opinion is that the person who wrote the review was not an attorney since the information given was incorrect and was carefully avoided in the preparation of my document. My attorney also told me that there is no IRS requirement that I must use the "net income" wording to pay my wife. The wording represents the minimum to be paid, but I gave instructions (which I am allowed to do) to pay a higher annual amount. My wife must have this higher amount since she will receive half of my pension and lower social security once I'm gone. This avoids another problem. She will not have to continually make requests for money and justify her needs to her trustee, in this case our son. Why would a person write a such a bad and incorrect review? Are they trying to stop the sale of a great book? I would recommend that everyone read this book and use the helpful check list for items they want for their family. These are important options to consider and discuss with your attorney. Do yourself a favor, read the book.

9 of 12 people found the following review helpful. I Hope Frank Does Not Make Much Money From This One!!! By A Customer Frank's attempt to "place fear" into clients, by telling them the state's "default rules" are "bad" is misplaced and a fraud on the readers, in my opinion. Frank warns the readers that an estate attorney is attempting to "hold-out" on secrets. That is "bunk, unless they used him, perhaps." Yes, I am an estate planning attorney with over 25 years of experience, No I am not afraid of Frank's book, because no one in their right mind would fall for his "BS." What some people will do to scam money from others, and yes, I bought the book, but I wish I could get my money back. I will not even attempt to resell it, it is not worth the shipping fee. In our day and age when flexibility is the key to a good estate plan, e.g one that ought to last for several generations, for tax and creditor protection reasons, one can not draft for ever unforeseeable and unknown event that may take place in the future, without paying big big big bucks to an attorney. Frank suggests that if one finds the language set forth below, the trust is drafted poorly. "My Trustee shall pay my surviving spouse the net income from the Trust." Frank knows this language is necessary, if the Trust is to qualify for the federal estate tax marital deduction, and it is required by the Internal Revenue Code. Why does Frank fail to tell the reader this little tid bit???? Is he afraid to admit that the trust may have been drafted with skill and care!! If the Trust is to be a Credit Shelter Trust, and not qualify for the marital deduction, then Frank, why force any net income or any other assets to be distributed to the surviving spouse? Why not merely name the spouse as the "distribution" trustee, and let her make distributions to herself for her health, education, support or maintenance (an ascertainable standard), and give her the sole power to select (hire and fire) a friendly Independent Trustee who would be empowered to make discretionary distributions to spouse of any amount of funds and for whatever reasons. Also, why not give the Spouse as Trustee the power to have the Trust buy tangible assets, such as homes, cars, or any other toys, and permit spouse to use or occupy them rent free? Would the spouse like this provision??? To obligate any Trust to pay more funds to a spouse than required for her consumption, defeats the creditor protection features of the trust. Give the surviving spouse the "power to control" the Trustee and its assets, and she will have all she ever needs, without having to guess today, how much cash will be needed many years from now. Or would Frank have the client pay the attorney a fee, annually, to fine tune the distribution provisions? Frank, I would be happy to review your Revocable Trust, for "default rules." I hope for your family you engaged the services of a skilled estate planning attorney, who did not read your book. You know, a lawyer who represent himself, has a bad lawyer. A disappointed reader.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Estate Ideas By Robert Schilling The book Estate Planning Living Trust Secrets: What they don't want you to know is one of the best Estate Planning Guides I have ever read. Clients of mine with rather complex estates and investment portfolios have always benefited from Mr. Croke's review of significant trust related issues. The checklist of 24 questions to ask enables my clients to review their existing trust documents to ensure they have not overlooked major planning benefits or have omitted important rights in their trust documents. Mr. Croke's book is readily available in local libraries if the reduced price is too expensive. I have a copy in my office for reference purposes during client sessions. Mr. Croke has provided great insights to me when I drafted my own will in recent years. The book should be required reading for all estate and certified financial planners. Great job take time to buy, read and use this one.

This is a useful and readable book on its own, but its bonus value is as a reference for the Trust documents available free on the publisher's web site. Step by step instructions are given for avoiding the high legal costs and delays of Probate by the use of these free Living Trusts for Married and for Single persons. These forms provide the protection everyone wants and should have for the surviving spouse, children and other heirs. If you own a home or have other assets, you need to consider a Living Trust. If you currently have a Living Trust, you owe it to your family and heirs to compare the boilerplate provisions and generalities in your document with those given at our web site and in the book. Both recommend specific provisions that clearly express the intent of the Grantor. Most existing Trusts do not provide an adequate income for your surviving spouse; nor do they properly provide for your children and other heirs. You need a Trust that does these things. Are you aware that many states require your Trustee to annually file and pay a special tax on your Trust? You can avoid this by including an important provision shown in Chapter 4. It allows you or

your heirs to change the state that controls your Trust and avoid these annual taxes on your estate. Does your Living Trust contain this provision? As a son or daughter, you can help your parent to use our Living Trust. The easy to understand explanations in the book show how to include important provisions that should be part of every effective estate planning document. These key options are unique to this book. You will not find them in the forms or in the text of other books on this subject. The author of Estate Planning Living Trust Secrets has been teaching these provisions to attorneys in state approved Continuing Legal Education courses over 12 years. Take advantage of the expertise he offers by reading the book and using the web site. You can then download the free Living Trusts, insert your name and the names of your family and other beneficiaries, include the options from the book that you want, and then sign your name.

Estate Planning Living Trust Secrets helps you to prepare a list of questions your attorney needs to answer. -- Kiplinger's Retirement Report, June 2001
New estate-tax exemptions can't compensate for trust problems caused by boilerplate. This book shows how to correct these problems. -- Financial Planning Magazine, May 2001
To properly provide for your surviving spouse and children, your key financial and management options are presented in this book. -- Journal of Financial Service Professionals, May 2001
Use "Estate Planning Living Trust Secrets" to set up a trust tailored to your specific needs and desires. -- Bottom Line Personal, May 1, 2001
About the Author
Frank J. Croke is one of the pioneers on the rights of citizens to properly plan and provide for their family and heirs in their estate planning documents. He is well known to financial planners, accountants, senior citizens and professional groups as a speaker on estate planning and trusts. He is a frequent guest on radio and TV talk shows. He has reviewed hundreds of Trusts and found few that properly provide for the family. He is an associate member of the American Bar Association and serves on the following Committees, Asset Protection, Probate Trust Estate Planning and Investment and Cash Flow Planning. "Professionalism and Grantor Options in Trusts" is a six-hour seminar approved by state bars, that he conducts for attorneys for their Continuing Legal Education requirements. He has written many articles on estate planning and is the author of the book, Family Trusts - Financial Errors in Trusts, How to Avoid and Correct Them, now in it's second edition.