

MVFG ADVISOR

M A R T H A ' S V I N E Y A R D F I N A N C I A L G R O U P

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Welcome to the first issue of MVFG Advisor. Monthly, we will update you on new services, and feature an informative article written by a member of the Financial Group. This month's article entitled Basic Estate Planning was submitted by Senior Trust Officer, Sarah Mayhew Shipway.

I recently joined Martha's Vineyard Financial Group as Senior Vice President and Group Manager.

I have twenty five years experience in the trust and investment services business having started my banking career at Shawmut Bank heading up their trust tax division.

When Shawmut was acquired I started a company called Trust Tax Services Of America (TTSOA), which provided trust tax and compliance services to trust organizations throughout the country. After growing TTSOA to the second largest provider in the country it was sold to

SunGard Data Systems in 2003, and I stayed on as company president through early 2004.

In 2004 I acquired Securities Research Company (SRC), America's oldest stock charting company. Working with brokerage firms worldwide SRC expanded its services to include a web-based charting system. After making a decision to move to the Cape full-time I sold SRC.

In November, 2008 my wife and I moved to East Falmouth full-time where for almost ten years we owned a home. Having made many trips each year to Martha's Vineyard I am thrilled about working at Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank and working with its many wonderful customers.

I am no stranger to Martha's Vineyard Financial Group as the bank was a long-time customer of TTSOA and as such, I had many years of working with Paul Ryan, Sarah Mayhew Shipway, and Katie Davey before joining

the bank. Having worked with the Financial Group on the outside for many years I am excited about now being part of the group, and look forward to meeting and speaking with our clients. As well, the group is looking forward to meeting new clients.

Thank you for your business and as always, please do not hesitate to call me at 508-693-8850 or email me at rripley@mvbank.com - Bob Ripley

Robert G. Ripley, Jr.
Senior Vice President & Group Manager



**Martha's
Vineyard**

FINANCIAL GROUP

For more information on our investment services or to schedule a confidential visit, please contact the Financial Group at 1-508-693-8850.

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Basic Estate Planning

This article is presented to provide a brief synopsis of estate planning. As this is a basic overview, each individual should discuss his/her own situation with a Trust Officer or an estate planning attorney to make sure that all individual issues are provided for in their own plan. If you need an estate planning attorney we would be pleased to provide you with a listing of experienced estate planning attorneys.

Proper estate planning allows an individual to manage and preserve assets during his/her lifetime and conserve and control the manner in which they benefit heirs, and are distributed after death. It is a highly personal process and should be tailored to age, wealth, health, and various other issues.

An estate plan consists of legal documents that are prepared to designate the individual's wishes in writing. Martha's Vineyard Financial Group has determined that there are five necessary documents that each estate plan should contain (and not all may be utilized for everyone):

- **Will** – A will is a legal document that sets forth your wishes regarding the distribution of your property and the care of any minor children.
- **Living (Intervivos) Trust** - Also known as a living trust, this trust has a duration that is deemed at the trust's creation and can entail the distribution of assets to the beneficiary during or after the trustor's lifetime. Typically these trusts are created because the beneficiary is unable or unwilling to manage the gifted assets personally.
- **Power of Attorney (Durable and/or Limited)** - A legal document giving one person (called an "agent" or "attorney-in-fact") the power to act for another person (the principal). The agent can have broad legal authority or limited authority to make legal decisions about the principal's property and finances. The power of attorney is frequently used in the event of a principal's illness or disability, or when the principal can't be present to sign necessary legal documents for financial transactions.
- **HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996)** - An act created by the U.S Congress in 1996 that amends both the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and the Public Health Service Act (PHSA) in an effort to protect individuals covered by health insurance and to set standards for the storage and privacy of personal medical data.
- **Health Care Proxy** - A legal document assigning the health-care decisions of an individual to another in the event the individual is unable to make the decisions for himself/herself.

Why do you need an Estate Plan?

If you are over 18 and would like to designate how and to whom your assets are distributed, and/or would like to nominate who will care for your minor children, you need at least a will to accomplish this. If you own significant assets in your name only or jointly with another, you may need an estate plan and analysis to minimize taxes assessed at your death. As the current law is written, the amount exempted from Federal Estate taxes is \$3,500,000.00. In 2010, there is no Federal Estate tax. In 2011, the current law reverts to an exemption amount of \$1,000,000.00 and a 55% tax on the excess.

It is highly likely that a change will be made to this law at some point in the coming year. Nevertheless it is still extremely important to protect and dispose of your assets in the manner in which you determine.

Please contact one of our Trust Officers at 508-693-8850 or MVSSTrustGroup@mvbank.com for more details on any of this information and for specifics on how this might apply to your particular situation.

Article submitted by: Sarah Mayhew Shipway, Senior Trust Officer