Thank you to our guest speakers for volunteering their time and expertise on this very informative call. And thank you to the participants for joining us.

When you think of an estate, you probably think of a mansion on a large piece of property. Estate planning sounds like it might have something to do with how you buy the mansion, but it actually defines what you want to happen to your assets after your death. While no one wants to think about dying, it’s important to have a plan in place to ensure your wishes are followed.

Proper estate planning may mean the difference between providing your heirs with a comfortable inheritance or a major financial headache. Your estate is everything you own in your own name and your share of anything you own with other people.

You property can be real -- meaning land and buildings -- or personal, such as jewelry, a stamp collection, or a favorite table or chair.

Money is property too, as are stocks and bonds, mutual fund accounts, or life insurance policies.
It’s not enough to just write an estate plan. You should also review it every couple of years. Make sure it’s up-to-date with current laws and the executors and guardians are correctly chosen.

Since you own the properties that will become your estate, it’s your right to say what will happen to it. You might tell your spouse, your children or your lawyer what you want to happen to it. But unless it’s written down, there’s no assurance your wishes will be respected.

Before examining the goals of estate planning, it’s important to note that an attorney should review your estate plan. If you’re willing to do some of the work on your own, it may not be necessary to see an attorney right away. Estate planning software can save you time and money and help you get the information you need before seeing an attorney. You may even be able to create legal documents with the software, but make sure your attorney reviews them.

To create your own document online, go to www.livingtrustontheweb.com or www.legacywriting.com. These Websites will provide you with a package of all [estate planning] documents, including a living will. Again, make sure your attorney reviews them.

This concludes today’s teleconference call on estate planning for women.

To listen to recordings or read transcripts of previous calls, please visit the Women’s Bureau Web site, www.wiseupwomen.org. That’s www.wiseupwomen.org. Excuse me.
Please join us for our next Wi$e Up Teleconference Call, July 31, 2 o’clock pm, Eastern Standard Time.

Thank you again for participating.

Coordinator: And thank you.

That does conclude our conference call for today. Thank you all for participating, and you may disconnect at this time.

Thank you.