

Preparing for Disaster: Important Legal Documents

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Keep In Mind

1

IF YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE, EXPECT TO NOT BE CALM OR BE THINKING CLEARLY.

2

YOU NEED TO HAVE THESE DOCUMENTS IN AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION, SO YOU CAN GRAB AND GO.

3

TAKE DOCUMENTS YOU CANNOT EASILY REPLACE.

Common Estate Planning Documents

Will/Trust - Property transfer at death

Durable Powers of Attorney - Allows for another person (Agent) to make medical and financial decisions for you when you are unable

Health Care Directive (Living Will) - End-of-life document that allows you to indicate to doctors whether you want artificial nutrition or hydration

Community Property Agreement - allows married couples to avoid probate after first spouse passes

POLST (Physician Order of Life-Sustaining Treatment) - bright green form that your doctor signs; applies to paramedics

**Legal
Documents
That Establish
Ownership,
Relationships,
Property
Rights**

Guardianship/Conservatorship documents - formal appointment by the court to make legal decisions for a disabled person

Divorce Decrees - comes in handy to show evidence of property or retirement benefit ownership

Death Certificates - especially of spouse

Birth Certificates, Social Security Cards - yourself, spouse, minor children

Passports

Marriage Certificate

Home Ownership Documents

Deeds

Mortgage documents

Receipts for home
improvements

Homeowners insurance

Thank you!

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