



Graham Estate Planning

Plan for Tomorrow, Prepare for the Future

AVOID THE MISTAKES CELEBRITIES MAKE ... PLAN AND PREPARE!

James Brown's estate assets have been in turmoil since he passed away on Christmas Day 2006, nearly 13 years ago. Graham Estate Planning explains why below.

- Brown was married four times.
- Brown had ten children.
- Brown did not have his will updated after his FOURTH marriage.
- Brown's fourth wife was still married to another man before she married Brown.
- Brown's first nine children sued wife no. 4 along with her son (Brown's tenth child).
- This fight went on for 11 of the past 12 years before wife no. 4 prevailed in court.
- However, the nine continued to fight to prevent their own brother (proven through DNA testing) from inheriting.
- Brown's estate administrators have since settled with Brown's fourth wife but the estate itself has not yet been settled because of the battle among his children.
- At the time of Brown's death, his estate was estimated to be worth \$100 million.
- Estate Administrators now allege Brown's estate to be worth approximately \$5 million.
- Estate Administrator fees are paid from the decedent's estate BEFORE heirs can inherit.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/legalentertainment/2018/10/15/james-brown-estate-twelve-years-after-his-death-controversy-remains/#33b77f0975d7>

"According to the [U.S. Census](#), 16 percent of children live in a blended family as of 2009...The U.S. Census is done every 10 years, and there are also [1,300 new](#) stepfamilies forming every day. <https://www.healthline.com/health/parenting/blended-family-tips>. Today, blended families are the norm and the challenges that plague a blended family do not necessarily disappear when you are no longer around to referee; i.e., different traditions, kids adjusting, sibling rivalry, age gaps and parenting styles do not disappear when the parents pass away. Are you in a relationship or married? Do you have children from a previous marriage or relationship? Have you discussed what will occur should one of you pass away? Do you have a special needs dependent? Who will be the guardian of your children? Who will be the guardian of your partner's children? Where will the children grow up? Will you provide for your partner's children? Will your partner provide for yours? Who is the beneficiary on your insurance policy? Your Pension? Where will you be buried? With your partner? With your family? Are you a business owner? What about medical and business decisions? Digital assets? Address these issues through various will and trust plans and avoid a costly court battle that your estate, assets and loved ones cannot endure.

Side Note: If you wondered why Dr. MLK Jr.'s children fought for years over how to manage his assets, it's quite simple. Dr. MLK, whose life was threatened daily, with a wife and four small children under ten years old, had no last will and testament, no power of attorney and no trust.

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