

# National Financial Wellness Month

## Make a Plan for Your Estate

A constant theme with financial wellness and stability is planning for the future. Learn the basics of estate planning and gain some peace of mind by protecting your family and assets.

### Learn more about:

- The difference between a Will and a Trust
- Establishing and updating beneficiaries
- Establishing a Power of Attorney (POA)
- Life insurance options
- Document safekeeping

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  - Get Ready for Tax Season
  - Financial Wellness Wednesdays



## The Basics of Estate Planning

A constant theme with financial wellness and stability is planning. We plan for big purchases throughout our lives and that same planning should be applied to your estate. Your estate includes all the assets you have such as your home, investments, retirement accounts and other belongings. Regardless of how much value you have in your estate, you want to make sure it goes to the right people in the event of your death or incapacitation. If you aren't sure where to begin when it comes to estate planning, follow the steps below to get the process started.

### Set Up a Will or Trust

Wills and Trusts are the foundations of estate planning to help make sure your assets are directed to the correct individuals or entities. Determining which tool to use depends on your situation. Both offer similar objectives, however, there are finer details which might sway your decision.

- **Will** – A Will allows you to direct who will manage your assets and how your assets will be distributed in the event of your death. Wills are required to go through a process called probate in which a judge examines the legitimacy of the Will. An attorney or other entity can help you create and update your Will.
- **Trust** – A Trust is a legal agreement in which your assets are held for a beneficiary or beneficiaries. When establishing a Trust, you will need to identify a trustee who will manage your assets according to the terms in your Trust. Unlike Wills, Trusts do not require the probate process.

### Establish a Power of Attorney

Designating a Power of Attorney (POA) is a critical step to ensure that decisions are made in your best interest in the event that you become incapacitated for any reason. A financial Power of Attorney gives one person the power to act on your behalf as it relates to decisions regarding property and finances. A Power of Attorney is easy to set up and incredibly flexible. It cannot be stressed enough that you name a person who is trustworthy, reliable and capable of serving as your agent.

### Consider Life Insurance

Life insurance is an important financial tool that provides money to the people who depend on you when you pass away. Not everyone will need life insurance, but there are many situations in which it would help. Life insurance would help your beneficiaries pay any debts as part of your estate, funeral expenses, estate taxes, settlement costs, etc.

### Review and Confirm Beneficiaries

Your Will or Trust will state your wishes in the event of your death, but they are not always all encompassing and there may be other accounts where you need to add beneficiaries. Many people experience life changing events such as marriage, divorce or having children, which may create a need to update their 401(k) or other retirement and insurance accounts. It is important to make sure you review your beneficiaries periodically to confirm they are accurate and up to date.

### Store Documents Securely

Now that you've gone through the work of preparing your estate and completing the required documents, make sure they're safe by storing them in a secure place. It's a best practice to keep these types of documents, along with other sensitive documents, in a safe or fire proof box to ensure they won't ever be damaged or stolen. Share the location with your Power of Attorney or executor of your Will so they know where to find them. It is also important to keep electronic copies and share those files with the executors and/or Power of Attorney.

If you would like help with your estate planning process, SDCCU has partnered with Legal Karma to provide estate planning packages that will best fit your needs. Visit [sdccu.com/estateplanning](https://sdccu.com/estateplanning) to learn more.

## Financial Wellness Wednesdays

### FREE Financial Wellness Presentations

Join us for free webinars on the following topics:

- Scams and How to Protect Your Finances
- Banking 101
- Elder Financial Abuse Prevention
- 6 Steps to Create a Personal Budget
- Understanding Credit Reports, Preventing Identity Theft & Scams
- 10 Steps to Financial Freedom
- Rebounding After a Financial Setback
- Teaching Your Teen About Money
- How to Pay for College
- Achieving Money Milestones
- Internet Safety for Your Kids
- Making Home Equity Work
- Simple Ways to Slash Spending
- And more!

For a complete list of presentation topics and dates, visit [sdccu.com/fww](https://sdccu.com/fww).



## New Year Blood Drive

### Save a Life, Donate Blood

January 9, 2025 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### Donate at eight SDCCU locations!

Visit [sdccu.com/blooddrive](https://sdccu.com/blooddrive)



## Get Started on Your Taxes



### Save up to \$15

Don't worry about scrambling to find your tax forms during tax time! Just log into Internet Branch online banking to view or print your tax forms quickly and easily. Not enrolled in eTaxForms? Log into Internet Branch online banking and click eTaxForms to enroll today.

SDCCU is happy to offer our members a discount on TurboTax®. TurboTax can help you get your maximum refund with minimum effort. Plus, you can have your refund deposited directly into your SDCCU account. To get started, visit [sdccu.com/turbotax](https://sdccu.com/turbotax).

## SDCCU in the Community

### National Financial Wellness Month - January

January is National Financial Wellness Month, a good reminder to check in with your financial health! SDCCU is proud to once again start the new year by hosting Financial Wellness Wednesdays. Join us for free financial wellness presentations presented by SDCCU representatives on a variety of topics aimed at improving financial well-being. Presentations are free, open to the public and the schedule and registration links will be posted monthly at [sdccu.com/fww](https://sdccu.com/fww).

### Lunar New Year – January 28

In celebration of Lunar New Year, red envelopes will be available at all SDCCU branch locations from January 28 - February 4. To find a branch near you, visit [sdccu.com/locations](https://sdccu.com/locations).

### Love Your Heart – February

SDCCU is proud to support Live Well San Diego's Love Your Heart initiative to help the community get to know their blood pressure numbers through free blood pressure screenings. For more information about Love Your Heart, including screening locations, visit [LoveYourHeartSD.org](https://LoveYourHeartSD.org).

### National Credit Education Month – March

March is National Credit Education Month, which encourages members of the community to check their credit scores, understand the importance of a clean credit report and learn how to improve it. SDCCU is hosting webinars all month long that cover building credit and other important topics to help improve your financial health. For details, visit [sdccu.com/fww](https://sdccu.com/fww).

### SDCCU Classroom Heroes®

SDCCU is committed to helping teachers, parents and students make educated financial decisions by delivering the BEST financial education, products and services. SDCCU is engaged in several philanthropic efforts aimed at improving overall economic well-being and making a positive difference in our local schools. To learn more, visit [sdccu.com/classroomheroes](https://sdccu.com/classroomheroes).

### SDCCU Furever Friends Adoption Program

SDCCU is thrilled to partner with Rancho Coastal Humane Society (RCHS) on a program to help find loving homes for our furry friends. The Furever Friends adoption program highlights animals with special needs, seniors and long-term RCHS residents looking for a home. To learn more, visit [sdccu.com/petadoption](https://sdccu.com/petadoption).

For more information on SDCCU's community support, visit [sdccu.com/community](https://sdccu.com/community).

### SDCCU Annual Meeting – February 2025

The Annual Business Meeting, to be held at SDCCU's Operations Center at 6545 Sequence Drive, San Diego, CA, 92121, February 24, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., will include the approval of the prior year's meeting minutes, reports from the Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee, as well as election results. Five members of the Board of Directors and one member of the Supervisory Committee will be elected. The Nominating Committee recommends: Ken Van Riper, Teresa Campbell, Heather Benjamin and Alfie Gonzaga for three-year terms and Vanessa Ybarra Davis for a one-year term to the Board of Directors. In addition, the Nominating Committee recommends Krista Fakoory to the Supervisory Committee for a three-year term.

The number of qualified individuals nominated for the Board or Supervisory Committee is not more than the number of positions to be elected. In accordance with our Bylaws, the Board of Directors may, without further action, declare that these nominees have been elected at the Annual Business Meeting. This procedure will be followed at the Annual Business Meeting on February 24, 2025.

### Proxy Notice

This proxy notice is provided to all SDCCU members who have executed a voting proxy. Notice is hereby given the nature of each matter or group of related matters on which the voting proxy may be voted by the proxy holder for the Election of Directors, Election of Supervisory Committee members, Amendments of the Bylaws of SDCCU, except as prohibited by law and any other matters which may properly arise at either the Annual Business Meeting or any other special meeting of the members.

### Compliments & Complaints

We welcome your feedback as we strive to provide you with exceptional service. Please send all compliments & complaints to PO Box 261209, Attn: Compliments & Complaints, San Diego, CA 92196-1209.

Visit [sdccu.com](https://sdccu.com) for open branch locations and hours.

SDCCU will be closed in observance of the following Federal Reserve holidays:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 20  
Presidents' Day – Monday, February 17



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(877) 732-2848

Membership required. For more information on products and services, visit us at [sdccu.com](https://sdccu.com).

Equal Opportunity Employer



Included with your December 2024 statements.