

As More Americans Turn To AI For Their Estate Plans, One Attorney Cautions Against Leaving Their Future to Chance

Illinois attorney and mediator Michael Biederstadt addresses the growing legal risks families face and what to do before crisis hits.

CHICAGO, IL, UNITED STATES, August 24, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As AI dominates national conversations, economic uncertainty grows, divorce rates rise, and awareness increases around the transfer of wealth from one generation to the next, more families are confronting a difficult reality: they are unprepared for life's most predictable legal challenges.

A growing number of Americans are now facing the consequences of inadequate planning around marriage, divorce, and estate protection, often when it's already too late to avoid costly, emotionally charged outcomes.

[Michael Biederstadt](#), an Illinois-based attorney, certified mediator, and founder of [Family, Wealth & Legacy Legal Solutions](#), has spent his career on both sides of that equation. After years in high-conflict litigation, he made a deliberate shift away from reactive legal work toward proactive strategies that empower families to avoid life's most common legal problems.

His new book, [Life Happens. Are You Ready?](#) Everything You Need to Know About Marriage, Divorce, and Estate Planning to Protect Your Family, Finances, and Future, arrives at a time when families are actively seeking clarity, control, and long-term security in an increasingly unpredictable environment.

"Most people assume things will work out," says Biederstadt. "But when it comes to legal



Life Happens. Are You Ready?

decisions that affect your children, your finances, and your future, hope is not a strategy.”

Drawing on decades of legal experience, Biederstadt focuses on what he identifies as the three most significant legal risks every family faces: death, disability, and divorce. His work centers on helping clients address these realities before they escalate into crisis-driven decisions made in courtrooms.

In *Life Happens. Are You Ready?*, he outlines the practical steps families can take to protect themselves, including:

- Having structured, strategic conversations before marriage
- Understanding the real role of prenuptial agreements
- Navigating divorce in a way that preserves assets and minimizes conflict
- Creating estate plans that function under real-world conditions
- Making informed decisions about guardianship, inheritance, and legacy
- Selecting the right legal counsel when the stakes are high

Biederstadt’s perspective is shaped by a career that spans prosecution of serious criminal cases, work with the Illinois State’s Attorney’s Office, contributions to the Indiana Supreme Court’s Rules and jury instructions, as well as representation of both Olympic and collegiate athletes. He later spent years in traditional family law before recognizing the long-term damage litigation often creates for families, particularly children.

That experience led him to build a practice focused on prevention, not reaction.

Today, through his proprietary planning frameworks—including the Family, Wealth & Legacy Plan™, Children’s Protection Plan™, GAP Plan™, and Legacy Plan™—Biederstadt helps families stay out of court and in control of their outcomes.

The release of *Life Happens. Are You Ready?* reflects a broader shift in how individuals and families are approaching legal planning: moving from avoidance to intentional strategy.



Attorney Michael Biederstadt



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Michael Biederstadt

"Families don't need more legal documents," Biederstadt explains. "They need clarity, support, and guidance from someone who understands what's needed, and a plan that actually works when it matters most."

As conversations around financial security, family stability, and long-term planning continue to gain momentum, Biederstadt's message is increasingly relevant: preparation is both responsible leadership for your family and necessary to design the life and legacy you desire.

About Michael Biederstadt

Michael Biederstadt is an attorney, author, speaker, certified mediator, and the founder of Family, Wealth & Legacy Legal Solutions, serving families across Illinois. He focuses on estate planning, collaborative law, and family protection strategies designed to help clients make informed decisions before a crisis occurs.

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