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## Estate Planning Expert Forward

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# Estate Planning Expert

## Foreword

Remarriage has become common across society. Remarriages confront the parties and their families with a host of emotional and financial problems and potential conflicts that do not burden first marriages. Second marriages themselves take a variety of forms, but they all involve the family and legal version of mergers and acquisitions. Consider these typical cases:

- The second marriage occurring later in life, when a widow and widower decide to formalize a romance. These remarriages typically involve partners with grown children from their earlier long-term marriages. These second marriages will not produce children of their own, but the newlyweds' existing children might or might not rejoice at the prospect of mom or dad getting married again. As Jane Bryant Quinn noted in her book *Making the Most of Your Money*, “[When older people remarry,] your friends will be enchanted. But don’t be surprised if your children aren’t. It’s usually not the ‘pater’ they worry about, but the patrimony.”
- The second marriage occurring relatively early in adulthood following a divorce by one or both parties. These remarriages might or might not involve young children from the first marriage(s). These second marriages are also likely to produce children of their own.
- The second marriage occurring in mid-life for one or both parties, when the children of the prior marriage(s) are in their late teens or early adulthood. These second marriages might or might not produce children of their own.

There is no doubt that a self-help book devoted to financial and estate planning is of much interest to remarried partners, but can such a book be interesting? Jon Fitzpatrick has made his book interesting. This is no ordinary non-fiction book. Jon has come up with a unique way of presenting his material: as fiction. The setting for his novel is an adult course conducted at night in a local high school. His players are a couple of lawyers who teach the course and the students in the class. Each chapter addresses the classroom topic for that evening. The dialogue reveals the human story of each student. The result is a fascinating look into the lives and

emotions of the characters as they learn about the financial and estate planning problems they face and how they might handle them.

Jon comes to his topic from personal and professional experience—as a lawyer for current or soon-to-be participants in a second marriage and as a participant in a second marriage of his own. He is to be congratulated on writing this book, which should be of use, interest, and comfort to those contemplating or experiencing Marriage Two.

Lawrence W. Waggoner

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