

International Planning

What is international planning?



Setting up a Hong Kong trust can provide significant advantages due to its modern and comprehensive trust legislation.



Switzerland offers an excellent business environment, low tax rates and a very attractive network of double taxation agreements, making the country attractive to host wealth planning structures for families worldwide.



Singapore has excellent standards of anti-corruption and fairness and a strong regulatory framework where you can be confident that contracts will be respected, and efficient legal recourse is available if necessary.



Malaysia has an interesting second residency program that allows foreigners to obtain a 10-year residence permit if they meet certain health and income requirements and make a deposit in a Malaysian bank.

International planning establishes your roadmap in different jurisdictions on a broad range of aspects, from asset protection and wealth preservation, to integrated estate planning. It is about saving for retirement, opening doors to international investment, foreign currencies and global diversification and pre-migration planning for those looking to live part time or full time in other countries. But this diversification also brings many potentially problematic issues arising from exposure to foreign laws governing the ownership of international assets, particularly foreign succession laws and taxation.

How can you protect your international assets?

In order to achieve optimal protection and preservation of your international assets you need:



A very good knowledge of local inheritance and tax laws and forced heirship rules in countries where your assets are located.



Proper insurance coverage.



A clear view of the taxes and duties payable in countries other than where you are resident.



To have a succession plan in place, this is, a will, and/or established structures to deal with all your assets and interests.



A good understanding of how your portfolio is currently performing, also known as a good asset manager.



To have a business succession plan in place to deal with family members and business continuity.



Full information and title documents of your assets.

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Why do you need a plan?

You need a plan to ensure that all key issues are addressed, that assets, interests, provisions and intentions are known, implemented and reviewed as appropriate. The main advantages of having a comprehensive global estate plan combined with suitable structuring of the ownership of your family assets are listed below:

- Avoids the necessity of the family having to undertake complicated, costly and laborious probate procedures in various different jurisdictions where the family holds assets.
- Confidentiality, as the avoidance of public probate procedures prevents the outside world from gaining knowledge of the extent and location of the family's assets, thereby providing asset protection.
- Where appropriate, it will avoid unnecessary liability to local taxation in the jurisdiction where the assets are situated.
- It can provide a focal point for administration and record keeping, enhancing the ongoing good stewardship of the family's assets.
- Ensures the eventual succession to the family's assets is in accordance with your wishes and not governed by the succession laws of local jurisdictions.
- Flexibility, so that you can retain effective "control" over your assets during your lifetime, but sufficiently structured to ensure assets do pass to the correct family members as and when specified by you.
- Helps protect against conflict – either between family members seeking to dispute succession rights, or from spouses of family members or other third parties wishing to attack the family's assets.

How can Alpadis Group help?



Alpadis Group is present in key jurisdictions and has a solid team of expert advisers that can help you to implement complex international estate planning and asset protection structures.



We have proven structuring solutions, using trusts, foundations and other asset holding vehicles, to avoid many potential pitfall and liabilities inherent in owning, protecting and eventually passing on international assets.



Where much of the family's wealth is concentrated in a business, Alpadis Group will also work with you to put in place a family governance plan to help ensure the smooth running of the business even after your demise. Suitable structuring of the ownership of business assets, combined with a good family governance plan will ensure that your business remain strong during the hand over to other family members.

Contact us to discuss your plans!

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