

# STATE OF OKLAHOMA



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

*Whereas, careful estate and financial planning can greatly assist Oklahomans in preserving assets built over a lifetime for the benefit of family, heirs, or charities; and*

*Whereas, it is estimated that over half the adults in Oklahoma do not have up-to-date estate plans to protect themselves or their families in the event of sickness, accidents, or untimely death; and*

*Whereas, estate planning encourages timely decisions about the method of holding title to certain assets, the designation of beneficiaries, and the possible transfer of assets during the life of the benefactor; and*

*Whereas, estate planning involves many considerations, including safekeeping of important documents, documentation of assets, operation of law in the various states in which assets are owned, preparation of legal instruments, insurance, availability of trust arrangements, charitable gifting, inter vivos care of the benefactor, and other important financial and nonfinancial factors; and*

*Whereas, many Oklahomans are unaware that lack of estate planning and financial illiteracy may cause their assets to be disposed of to unintended parties by default through the complex process of probate; and*

*Whereas, alternatives to disposition of assets after death, such as planned gift-giving, may accomplish a benefactor's goal of providing for his or her family and favorite charities; and*

*Whereas, careful planning can prevent family members or other beneficiaries from being subjected to complex legal and administrative processes requiring a significant expenditure of time, and greatly reduce confusion or even animosity among family members or other heirs upon the death of a loved one; and*

*Whereas, the implementation of an estate plan starts with sound education and planning, and then may require the proper drafting and execution of appropriate legal documents, including wills, trusts, and durable powers of attorney for asset management and health care;*

*Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim October 20<sup>th</sup> through October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 as*

### *"Estate Planning Awareness Week"*

*in the state of Oklahoma.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and fourteen, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and sixth year.*

39533



*L. Benze*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Mary Fallin*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: