

## **Abraham Lincoln Wasn't Prepared**

As Abraham Lincoln walked into his box seat at Washington, D.C.'s Ford Theatre on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1865, he had no idea that he would not walk out of there under his own steam. That fateful evening, as the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States enjoyed the evening's performance of "Our American Cousin," President Lincoln was the victim of a single gunshot to the head at the hand of actor John Wilkes Booth.

President Lincoln would subsequently pass away the next morning at the nearby Petersen House.

He was one of our most beloved presidents and among the most famous lawyers in history, but he died unexpectedly and without a will.

Assassinated in the first round of a broader plot intended to return the Confederate army to prominence, President Lincoln's death was the only act in the scheme to come to fruition.

In the days leading up to the assassination, President Lincoln was plagued by eerie dreams which would soon be considered a foreshadowing of the events to come. In one particularly haunting dream, the President set off in search of the source of sorrowful sounds emanating through the halls of the White House.

His travels lead him to the White House's East Room, and here, he was distressed to find a deceased body prepared for a funeral viewing. The President then queried the guards on duty as to who had passed away and was informed that he was looking at the body of the President who had been assassinated.

This premonition would soon be fulfilled. Three days later President Lincoln was the subject of the assassination attempt that would ultimately claim his life.

### **It Wasn't Supposed to Be This Way...**

Yet Abraham Lincoln died unprepared. At only 56 years of age, President Lincoln was a relatively healthy man in the prime of his life. He was expecting to have many years yet ahead of him to serve his country. Sadly, as a result of lack of proper estate planning, President Lincoln died with his affairs intestate.

President Lincoln's family acted swiftly to appoint the United States Supreme Court Justice David Davis to care for Lincoln's estate and remaining finances and personal acquisitions. Though the families of previous politicians who died in similar circumstances had to endure lengthy battles to establish the proper disbursement of the final estate, President Lincoln's affairs were concluded in three years, a significant hardship on his family who not only had to deal with the pain of the loss of a beloved father and husband but also with financial duress during this time.

### **Don't Get Caught Unprepared...**

Perhaps you too are in the prime of your life with death not even occupying a distant corner of your mind. But life is fleeting and we are not promised a tomorrow. President Lincoln thought his best years were yet to come, and you may feel you have many years ahead of you in which you can take the time to do proper estate planning. That opportunity was taken from President Lincoln, and it could be from you as well.

Why not take the time today to consider Jack Veale's [The Sudden Death Checklist](#)? This comprehensive estate planning program will walk you through the complex maze of end of life and business continuity planning. With the help of the Sudden Death Checklist and your advisors, you can invest a few hours of your time to save your family years of stress and hardship, fighting to obtain the things you intended to be left in their care the minute you left this life for the next.

Your family should have complete peace of mind. Act now and ensure that your business and estate is prepared. You want that for them, and you can get it today by purchasing [The Sudden Death Checklist](#). Once you get started, you'll wonder why you waited so long.

### **Not A Business Owner?**

Even if you're not the business owner, you still may play a crucial role. Executors and Trustees have to have everything prepared in advance as well. [Contact us](#) for the Executors Checklist or the Trustees Checklist. Pick up your copy today.