Insurance-Funded Estate Equalization for Family Businesses

The problem

The operating business is often the largest asset in the estate — and it can only go to the child who runs it. Splitting it equally forces a sale, dilutes control, or fractures the family.

The framework

- Identify which heir(s) will inherit the business.
- Calculate the fair-market value of the interest they'll receive.
- Design a permanent life insurance policy whose death benefit equals that value.
- Direct the tax-free proceeds to the other heirs so everyone receives comparable value.

Why insurance is the cleanest tool

A permanent policy delivers a guaranteed, tax-free lump sum at exactly the moment the estate needs liquidity. No forced sale, no discounted valuation, no delay.

What we look at

- Corporate vs. personally-owned ownership of the policy.
- Shareholder agreements aligned with the insurance strategy.
- CDA (Capital Dividend Account) planning for tax-efficient distribution.
- Regular reviews as the business grows and values shift.

Next step

If a family business is part of your estate, this conversation cannot wait. Book a private strategy session and we'll map out an equalization plan you can share with your family with confidence.

Ready to talk it through? Book a private strategy call at calendly.com/owlivinvestments · yiannistsantilas@owlivwealth.ca · (437) 997-2227