Strohschein Law Group LLC

The Strohschein Sun

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HOW CAN WE HELP?

Estate and Long Term Care Planning

Guardianship

Estate and Trust Administration

Probate Litigation

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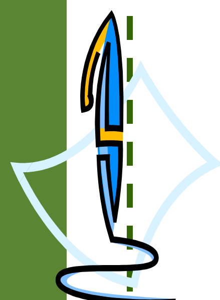
A Note from the Principal



A new year lies ahead of us and many have resolutions about weight loss, fiscal fitness or more organized homes. My 10 year old son, Nathan, has a resolution to focus on getting his assignments in on time without mom watching over his shoulder. He is heading off to middle school next year and wants to be prepared.

At SLG, we are focusing on protecting what matters for our clients by either updating a will or trust from years ago, or creating one in the first place. I hear folks tell me all the time, that they don't need an "estate plan" because they don't have an "estate".

Although we each may have a different focus than Bill Gates or Oprah Winfrey, there are still things that are important to us and worth protecting. Have you considered what a 2nd marriage will do to your plan? What about a disabled child or a non-citizen spouse?

A consultation at any of our three office locations - St. Charles, Schaumburg or DeKalb - will give you the opportunity to discuss your situation with an experienced and caring attorney, and learn about various planning options suited for your particular needs. Sometimes we just don't know what we don't know!

Give us a call to schedule an appointment, and if you see Nathan in the office when you are here, remind him that his spelling homework is due on Friday.

Linda Strohschein

Your Estate Plan: Leaving a Legacy

If you are like most people, now is the time to take inventory and set goals for the New Year!

Estate planning is primarily about how to pass your property on after your death to the recipients of your estate with a minimum of fuss, expense and taxes. But, it is about a lot more as well.

Whether and how you plan your estate can mean that your children will or will not be on speaking terms after you're gone. It can determine whether they will be shortchanged by Medicaid claims or estate taxes, or will be less financially pressed due to what you are able to leave them.

There's the father who set up a trust for his life insurance, but never transferred the policy into the trust and who had a large IRA with no named beneficiary. More than half of his estate went unnecessarily to estate and income taxes.

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Call 630-377-3241 to schedule a one-hour consultation about your unique personal situation.

"Oh, my friend, it's not what they take away from you that counts.

It's what you do with what you have left!"

Hubert Humphrey

Strohschein Law Group Supports

TRIAD

Educating and Reducing Crimes Against Seniors

Your Estate Plan

Continued from page 1.

There's the uncle who wanted to leave his estate to one niece. We know this from a series of statements found in his safe deposit box. But he never executed a will. As a result, another niece and nephew also shared the estate.

There are also many instances of funds going to disabled beneficiaries receiving public benefits. Without the right trust, this generosity can result in loss of Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income for the disabled heir, greatly reducing the benefit of the gift.

These are the cases of being penny wise and pound foolish. The effort to avoid attorney's fees often means greater attorneys fees having to be paid by the heirs as they fight over the spoils or pay to clear up a title problem. It's a lot cheaper to execute a high-quality estate plan than to clean up the mess left by no estate plan, or one that's poorly thought out.

Your estate plan can be a way of leaving a legacy for your children or charity!

When you are ready, give us a call to schedule a consultation - it will be a gift to those you love!

How to Get More for Your Money!

If you are like the rest of us, you are looking for ways to make the most of your hard-earned assets. Shopping at resale shops and collecting coupons have become favorite past-time activities, along with visits to financial advisors, CNN, and the internet.

So what does one do when faced with the "additional" costs of long term care? The thought of paying someone for care needs, including possible nursing home expenses, feeds fear and frustration.

Strohschein Law Group helps individuals deal with these sensitive family issues everyday.

Linda Strohschein, Certified as an Elder Law Attorney, meets personally with potential clients, to objectively recommend ways to "stretch" whatever dollars may be available.

Once an appointment is made, someone from the team will call to get additional information and discuss the current situation in more detail, to prepare for the "working meeting" with family members and the client.

Public and private benefit options are explored, based on the client's goals, resources and other criteria. Most people prefer to remain at home as long as possible, but many factors influence this decision.

Some planning tools may include Powers of Attorney for Healthcare and Property, Wills and/or Trusts, Medicaid/Medicare and Veteran's Benefits, Long Term Care Insurance, Reverse Mortgage or financial advisor assistance.

Optimizing existing resources and using legitimate planning methods to qualify for public benefits and/or access available resources, may ease the fear of running out of money down the road.

Linda's List of Who's Who at the Firm

Helen Mesoloras
Attorney

Join us in welcoming our new Attorney, Helen Mesoloras, to the Strohschein Law Group Team!

Helen received her B.A. with Honors from DePaul University in 2001 in Public Policy and her J.D. from DePaul University in May of 2004.

She is a member of The Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

Helen has co-authored two chapters with Attorneys Steven C. Perlis and Tonya Gabbard in Illinois Jurisprudence, covering Medicaid Planning and Basic Estate Planning.

We consider Helen a valued addition to our team, and we think you will, too!

Helen can be reached by e-mail: Helen@StrohscheinLawGroup.com

To learn about the rest of our team, visit our web site: www.StrohscheinLawGroup.com.

Ethical Wills

Think of it as a note to your family - a monologue or a dialogue about those rich and very personal moments you shared, what you hope to leave for those you love or just want to say to them.

Non-binding and personal, this container for enduring communication will last forever!

Learn how you can have one and the significance it holds.

See back for educational schedule.)

Mini Chip Snowball Cookies

My children and I baked these cookies right before Christmas and I nearly ate the whole batch they were so good! It is a very similar cookie to a bourbon ball or snowball - very buttery, but this variety has a great punch of chocolate, which is definitely my favorite part. If you have a favorite that you would like to share with us, please send it to Info@StrohscheinLawGroup.com and we'll find a spot in a future issue. In the meantime, enjoy the snow, either in your cookie or outside in the fresh air, preferably with a fast sled and a tall hill!

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) butter or margarine softened
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups (12 oz. pkg.) NESTLE TOLL HOUSE Semi-Sweet Chocolate Mini Morsels
- 1/2 cup finely chopped nuts (optional)
- Additional powdered sugar for sprinkling

DIRECTIONS:
Preheat oven to 375° F. Beat butter, sugar, vanilla extract and salt in large mixer bowl until creamy. Gradually beat in flour, then stir in morsels and nuts. Shape level tablespoons of dough into 1 1/4 inch balls. Place on ungreased baking sheets.
Bake for 10-12 minutes until cookies are set and lightly browned. Remove from oven. Sift powdered sugar over hot cookies on baking sheets. Cool on baking sheets for 10 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely. Sprinkle with additional powdered sugar, if desired. Store in airtight containers. Makes a great valentine gift!

Life Care Planning Law Firms Association MEMBER

NAELA™ National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc. MEMBER

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Protecting What Matters.

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2011 Educational Series - Save the Date

"Long Term Care Planning and the Sandwich Generation"

If you are caring for your children and your parents, you are in the "Sandwich Generation" Learn what you can do to prepare for potential long term care expenses and still live a quality life.

Sat., Feb. 19, 2011 9-10AM

Tues., Feb. 22, 2011 Noon 1PM

"Ethical Wills - Personal Containers for Enduring Communication"

An Ethical Will is a way of preserving your "legacy" of values for your family. Different than a regular will, it allows one to touch the lives of your loved ones in a personal way.

Sat., March 5, 2011 9-10AM

Th., March 10, 2011 Noon-1PM

"Trust University" - All the Trust Questions You Were Afraid to Ask

Join us to get an easy understanding of this complicated topic. Bring your current document so we can tailor the workshop specifically for you!

Sat., March 19, 2011 9-10AM

Tues., March 22, 2011 Noon -1PM

All educational programs are held at our office:

2455 Dean Street, Suite G, St. Charles - 60175

Because lunch is provided, we request an **R.S.V.P**. prior to the scheduled event.
Just give us a call at **(630) 377-3241**, or send us an e-mail:

www.invite@StrohscheinLawGroup.com