

Don't Want to Think About It!

Ignorance (full blown denial in some cases) is a legitimate strategy for dealing with the aging process. Generations before us have grown old in denial, is there any reason why the rest of us shouldn't have this luxury? But the Baby-Boomers, who have never been allowed to ignore any milestone their cohort collectively experiences, have not even the remotest chance of turning a blind eye to the next "big experience". Every day the newspapers and internet are filled with more and more articles about retirement planning, long term care insurance, and estate plans.

With all the "helpful" material out there, it's difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff, but this article, [You Mean I'm Not Going to Live Forever?](#) by Dan Kadlec is one of the good ones. Kadlec is straightforward and funny, sharing enough of his own experience to make the reader feel drawn into a circle of co-conspirators. Most importantly, however, Kadlec makes dealing with the future seem easy. He begins by focusing on the important stuff—namely YOU. He asks all the right questions and gives gentle nudges in all the right places. *And* his article is filled with links to relevant and informative websites.

Let's face it, Boomers aren't going to be allowed to age in blissful ignorance. But they just may turn out to be the most prepared and satisfied group of senior citizens yet.

Estate Planning Essential for Unmarried Couples

Most of the clients who choose to create an Estate Plan are married couples, but every once in a while an unmarried couple, or even a single person, will feel the need to put their affairs in order. The truth is that it is just as important, often *more* important, for unmarried clients to have a plan in place.

<http://www.gay.com/news/article.html?2007/08/07/1>

There are too many examples of unmarried life partners being kept from each other during illness because they didn't have a Health Care Directive, or hadn't nominated their life partner as a Health Care Agent. When an unmarried individual becomes incapacitated and requires a conservator the courts will most often appoint the closest family member to make decisions for that person. This means that should the unthinkable happen, the court could put you in the care of your brother whom you see only once a year at Christmas, instead of the loved one with whom you've been living and sharing your life for the last 15 years.

The fact that we have moved into the 21st century does not mean that we aren't still a very traditional society in many ways. It may be only logical to you that the person with whom you share a house, bank accounts, and a gym membership be the one to take care of you in time of tragedy, but the law doesn't always see it that way. Don't wait until it's too late, talk to your local Estate Planning Attorney and take the right precautions today.

Estate Planning for Parents, One Step at a Time

One of the most motivating factors in Estate Planning is parenthood. Nothing lights a fire under you like the thought that the most important thing in your life could be given up to the care of the state if you don't take action now. However, there are a number of people for whom parenthood is not a motivation but a reason to avoid estate planning. Whether the idea of their children having to live without them is just too painful to contemplate, or they say they just have no time for it.

But planning for your children can be one of the best ways to open the doors to estate planning. One of the easiest documents to draft, from a legal standpoint, is a Nomination of Guardians. And this simple document can by far bring clients the most peace of mind. A Nomination of Guardian is the document by which the parents state who they would choose to take care of their children if something were to happen to the parents. This document is one, maybe two pages long, it requires no thought about difficult medical decisions, and does not necessitate taking stock of financial affairs or the moving of assets. A Nomination of Guardian, though an integral part of an entire estate plan, can serve very well as a stand-alone document.

What parents soon come to realize though, is that by planning for their children's guardianship they have a plethora of other tools within an estate plan to help them provide for their children in other ways as well; An Authorization For Medical Treatment Of Minors ensures that the people they trust can provide their children with necessary medical treatment if the parents are unable to be reached, a Trust allows parents to financially provide for their children and their children's guardians, and an Exclusion of Guardians can keep a child from falling into the hands of inappropriate (and sometimes potentially dangerous) guardians.

Parents have every reason in the world to look into creating an estate plan. Whether they go all the way with a full estate plan or stop with a simple Nomination of Guardian, every step provides a child with one more bit of protection, and provides a parent with a lot more peace of mind.