

"KNOWLEDGE TO HELP, EMPATHY TO CARE"

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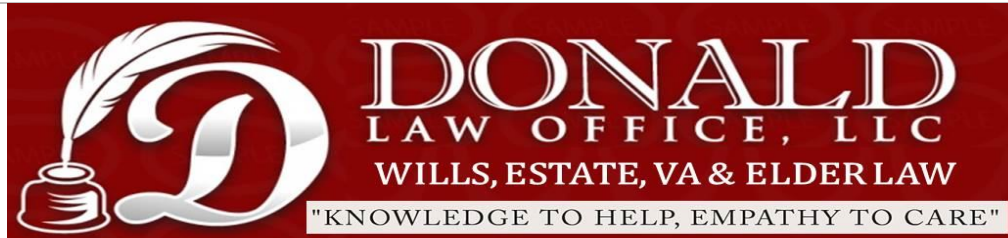
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April Update:

"With the coming of spring, I am calm again."

We can help you be prepared and give you that sense of calm while helping your plan for your future and showing your loved ones how much you care! Call or email us today to set up a **FREE** consultation!

Baltimore Office:

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Basic Estate Planning Documents: The Foundation to Everyone's Estate Plan

Basic Estate Planning Documents include a will, power of attorney, healthcare power of attorney, and living will. Most of us know that in the will we list who gets our stuff and who is in charge of this. We know that both powers of attorney allow someone to speak on our behalf financially or medically. And we know that the living will allows us to decide what our end-of-life treatment would be like. Why is this so important?

Let's look at the story of Eric who was 18 years old. As the years went by, Eric made some wise decisions. He started a job, bought a house, got married, had children, started a retirement account, and bought some life insurance. By his mid-forties, Eric thought it was finally time to create that estate plan he had been thinking about for the past few years. But, Eric had yet to even lay his foundation. So, Eric met with the estate planning

attorneys and together they formulated a plan. But before Eric could sign his documents to put his plan into place, Eric was in a car accident. He didn't pass away but he did end up in a coma. Unfortunately because Eric never put a foundation in place, his wife was not authorized to speak on his behalf for non-life threatening medical decisions. And without a power of attorney document, Eric's wife was not authorized to sign his plan on his behalf. Because his plan could not be completed, all of Eric's accounts including his life insurance policy and IRA were left unchanged- the only beneficiary was his wife. Sadly, doctors determined Eric would not recover from the coma. Without a living will, his wife was forced to decide what she thought Eric would want. Unfortunately, Eric's parents disagreed. Eric's wife and parents ended up suing each other in court so they could fight

for what they believed Eric would have wanted. The trouble was that no one really knew exactly what Eric wanted- because he never made his intentions known. After years of court battles, the high court finally decided to remove Eric's life-sustaining treatments. And because Eric's estate plan was never put into place, there were no provisions for his children. The accounts that Eric had went to his wife as she was the only beneficiary listed. Shortly thereafter, Eric's wife remarried.

As you can see, no matter how young you are, it is always a good idea to lay your estate plan foundation. Had Eric laid his estate plan foundation, the circumstances after his car accident could have been handled smoothly, without use of the court system and his children would have been provided for by him. So, are you ready to lay out your estate plan foundation?

Upcoming Workshops

Seven Threats to Your Family Security – Estate Planning Workshop

Avoid Losing Your Assets! Stay Home with Medicaid & VA Benefits and Keep it Simple!

Learn about how to:

- * maintain control of your assets
- * plan for the high costs of long-term care
- * protect and preserve YOUR life savings
- * structure legal ownership and how it effects estate planning

**** THREE DATES ****

**** THREE LOCATIONS ****

EASTON

Tuesday, April 12th

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Courtyard Marriott

3900 Morse Crossing

Columbus, OH 43219

GAHANNA

Thursday, April 12, 2016

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Holiday Inn Express

460 Waterbury Court

Gahanna, OH 43230

NEW ALBANY

Saturday, April 16, 2016

10:00am – 12:00pm

Courtyard Marriott

5211 Forest Drive

New Albany, OH 43054

Call or email to register today!



Office Happenings

Sometimes you just have to "stop and smell the roses". This month we did just that as an office. All five members of our packed up our things and went to Columbus to take in a concert provided by "2 Cellos" at the Palace Theater.

Prior to the concert we took the time to grab a bite to eat at Tip Top on Gay Street. Now if you have ever seen Tip Top, you

might think it doesn't look like the best place to eat, but we can tell you, looks can be deceiving! Give it a try, you might just like it.

After a wonderful meal we trotted off down the street to the Palace Theater and where we were treated to the most incredible light and music show ever by 2 Cellos. Now when you hear of a group called 2 Cellos you might be thinking "oh, that sounds like boring

classical music" but we can assure you, nothing could be further from the truth (though there is some incredible classical music as part of the concert).

The most amazing thing to us though was the huge variety in ages of the people attending the concert. If you haven't seen or heard of 2 Cellos, take the time to look them up or attend a concert. We promise; you won't be disappointed!

Staff Spotlight

This month's Staff Spotlight will be focused on our Founding Attorney, Matthew W. Donald. As you many of you know, Matt is very active in our community as a member and former officer of the local VFW (Post #3761) and as a member of St. Mary's of the Assumption in Lancaster, Ohio. What

many of you may not know is that Matt is also the father of three wonderful children who recently had the unique experience of being part of the musical "Annie" at the Liberty Union Thurston High School. All three children were cast members of the musical and were on stage at the same time on several

occasions. Imagine the challenge of trying to watch all three children at the same time! Needless to say, it took more than one showing for Matt and his lovely wife, Sherri, to capture all of the excitement. We highly encourage all of you to take the time to take in some of the entertainment offered at our local schools!

Matt's Message

As this newsletter "goes to press" so to speak, our attorneys are attending the Ohio Elder Law Institute's two-day block of instruction. The law is constantly in a state of change and keeping abreast of those changes is critical to developing a proper estate plan.

The beginning of this year found many law firms scrambling to adapt to the plethora of new rule changes that came out in January. At Donald Law Office we addressed these issues back in October of

2015 because we knew the changes were coming. How did we know before so many others? Because we make it our business to stay up-to-date of all the upcoming changes by attending continuing legal education (CLE) classes on a regular basis. We put a huge emphasis on anything that has to do with elder law.

The State of Ohio requires all attorneys to attend a minimum of 12 hours of CLE which can be on any topic. In our office, our attorneys focus our CLE classes on

elder law and estate planning. For example, last year Matt had more than five times the required amount (60.75 hours) in elder law estate planning alone.

So what does all this have to do with you? The point is simply this: who do you want creating your estate plan - a general practice attorney who completes just 12 hours of CLE in any field or a law office that is dedicated to being on the leading edge of elder law and estate planning?

Quote of the Month:

"I believe in process. I believe in four seasons. I believe that winter's tough, but spring's coming. I believe that there's a growing season. And I think that you realize that in life, you grow. You get better." – Steve Southerland



At Donald Law Office, we guide you through your entire estate planning and long-term care journey!

Our Mission is to provide peace of mind to you and your loved ones.



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