

"KNOWLEDGE TO HELP, EMPATHY TO CARE"

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**June Update:**

**Check out our BRAND NEW and IMPROVED website at: [www.donaldlawoffice.com](http://www.donaldlawoffice.com)**

Ask yourself: What can I do this month, this week, or right now to move toward my goal? Let us help you move toward that goal of peace of mind. Call or email us today to set up a **FREE** initial consultation!

**Baltimore Office:**

600 West Market Street  
Suite D  
Baltimore, OH 43105  
(740) 400-4194

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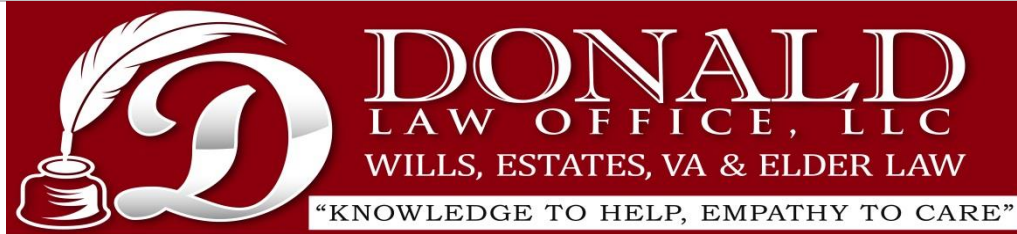
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**\*BRAND NEW & IMPROVED\***



## Prince's Legacy Shows Us the Importance of Estate Planning

As many of you may have heard on the news, Prince, the pop legend with chart-topping hits such as "Purple Rain" and "Little Red Corvette," died without any sort of estate plan in place. What this means, is that all of the assets and property that Prince saved during his lifetime, which is currently estimated at over 300 million dollars, will be distributed according to the laws of Minnesota, rather than going out according to Prince's wishes. In addition, it subjects the estate to expensive attorney fees, as well as both state and federal estate taxes.

This high profile case helps to serve as a reminder of why it is so important to have an estate plan in place. Although we may not be lucky enough to

have 300 million dollars of assets upon our deaths, it is still important for us to have a plan in place, dictating how we would like our assets to be distributed when we pass. In Ohio, if someone passes away intestate (without a will), the Ohio Revised Code, Section 2105.06 instructs the court as to who will inherit your estate. For example, if you pass away and there is no surviving spouse, no children, and no parents, then the estate would be distributed to your brothers and sisters.

In Prince's case, Minnesota law is quite similar. With no surviving spouse, no known children, and no surviving parents, Prince's siblings would be the ones to inherit his estate. However, a claim was recently made against Prince's estate by a

person alleging to be Prince's biological son. If a blood test reveals that this man is indeed Prince's son, he would step up in the order of inheritance. Not only does this add time and stress to the already long and expensive probate process, but it also involves subjecting the decedent to blood testing in order to establish whether or not the claimant is indeed Prince's son.

Whether through trust planning or a simple will, it is so important to memorialize your wishes in regards to how you would like your assets to be distributed upon your death. We will never know who Prince would have liked to receive his estate, but I do know it will be a long and expensive road ahead for his family.

## Upcoming Workshops

**Estate Planning Essentials & VA Benefits Workshops:**

**Monday, June 6, 2016**  
5:00pm-6:00pm  
**Salvation Army Samaritan Center**  
228 W. Hubert Avenue  
Lancaster, OH 43130

**Thursday, June 9, 2016**  
6:00pm-7:00pm  
**Fairfield County District Library**  
219 N. Broad Street  
Lancaster, OH 43130

Learn about Estate Planning basics and if you or a loved one might be eligible for FREE VA benefits!

**Estate Planning Essentials & Medicaid Benefits Workshop:**

**Thursday, June 23, 2016**  
6:00pm-7:00pm  
**Fairfield County District Library**  
219 N. Broad Street  
Lancaster, OH 43130

Avoid Losing Your Assets!  
Stay Home with Medicaid  
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

**Attend a workshop and receive a FREE no obligation private consultation with one of our Attorneys to answer any questions about setting up your estate plan.**

**Call or email to register today!**



## Office Happenings

Kristy has been working diligently with Haines Local Search for the past couple of weeks in creating, designing and testing our **BRAND NEW & IMPROVED** Donald Law Office website, [www.donaldlawoffice.com](http://www.donaldlawoffice.com).

Our \*New & Improved\* DLO website is now more user friendly (both desktop and mobile versions); contains more information about our company, staff and our areas of practice; has both Baltimore and Westerville

office location information; and last but certainly not least, we are now offering the ability to RSVP for upcoming workshops on our website, as well, which is a huge convenience for our prospective clients!

We are also going to start blogging on a regular basis, so make sure you stay tuned and check back with us often!

You may also notice our new headshots and group

photos, which were taken at Dave Saunders Photography in Lancaster ([www.davesaunders.com](http://www.davesaunders.com)), who did a great job.

If you're an existing client and interested in submitting a testimonial for our new website (don't worry, no last names will be used), feel free to email us!

We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback! **Check it out now at [www.donaldlawoffice.com](http://www.donaldlawoffice.com)**

## Staff Spotlight

This month's Staff Spotlight will be on our newest DLO member, Keith Melvin. Keith was brought in as our Benefits Coordinator helping our valued clients throughout the entire VA and Medicaid process. As a Veteran himself, Keith is passionate about helping fellow Veterans obtain the benefits they have earned.

Keith is a Veteran of Operation Iraq Freedom and was

deployed in 2005 as a member of Bravo Company, 612<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion. While deployed in Iraq, Keith served as the lead gunner on a personal security detail and was awarded his combat action badge, as well as a meritorious service medal for his dedication and service.

Keith received his Bachelor's Degree in Applied

Management from Ohio University in 2012, followed by completing law school at Capital University in just 2 ½ years, receiving his Juris Doctorate in January of 2016.

Keith and his wife, Terri, have been married for 8 years and currently reside in Nashport, Ohio. Together they are the proud parents of four beautiful and ambitious daughters.

## Matt's Message

I often look at the changing of the seasons like the phases of life. Spring reminds me of our younger years from newborn to 18. Summer to me is like the years between 18 and 40 while autumn is like 40 to 65. Winter of course is our latter years in life of 65 and beyond.

This year, the end of spring is particularly important to me personally as my daughter, Madison, is graduating from high school and moving from spring to summer in her own life. With that transition comes all the typical things like her graduation ceremony, a graduation party, final preparation for college, move-in day at college and of course, her first day of college

later in August when she will officially become part of the Bear Cat family at The University of Cincinnati.

While all of these events are certainly very important and significant, there is also one other event of equal importance that can easily be overlooked, Madison is going to officially be an adult. While this seems obvious to most, what may not be so obvious is that Sherri and I can no longer make decisions for Madison when it comes to legal decisions or her health care. She is going to have to make those decisions for herself just like every other adult. And just like every other adult, she faces the prospect of finding herself

in a situation, be it an accident or illness, where she might not have capacity to make decisions.

The last thing I want to have happen is to end up in a battle over what Madison would have wanted if she were incapacitated for any reason or God forbid, facing an end of life situation. With that in mind the first gift I am giving to my daughter when she turns 18 is a basic estate plan consisting of at least a will, a power of attorney, a health care power of attorney, and a living will.

Madison will soon be an adult, and the best gift her mother and I can give her is to ensure her wishes are known.

### Quote of the Month:

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant."

– Robert Louis Stevenson



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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