



JULY 1, 2016

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

"Knowledge to Help, Empathy to Care."

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July Update:

Check out our BRAND NEW and IMPROVED website at: www.donaldlawoffice.com

"Freedom is nothing else but a chance to be better." – Albert Camus.

Let us help you better you and your family's legacy! Call or email us today to set up a FREE initial consultation!

Baltimore Office:

600 West Market Street
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BRAND NEW & IMPROVED



"What Happens to My Cars When I Pass Away?"

This is a common question with many misconceptions.

If you own your vehicle jointly with rights of survivorship, the other person named on the title would become the sole owner when you pass away. If you don't own your car jointly and you are the only one listed on the title, what happens then? Does your spouse automatically get the car? Well, it depends...

Under the current Ohio law, a surviving spouse may take up to two automobiles outside of the probate process, as long as the total value of the vehicles is under \$40,000. This means that the combined value of the vehicles that were transferred outside of

probate is not included in the total value of the estate (and not included in probate attorney fees!). In addition to the two automobiles, the surviving spouse can also take one boat, one boat trailer, and one outboard motor outside of probate as well.

If you are unmarried, then your vehicle would get a one-way ticket through probate unless you had a transfer on death beneficiary designation on your car title. Under the Ohio Revised Code, you can add a transfer on death beneficiary to your vehicle title, specifying who you would like to receive your motor

vehicle upon your death. This is done by visiting your local title office (often times attached to an Ohio BMV) and telling the clerk that you would like to add a transfer on death (T.O.D.) beneficiary to your vehicle title. They will assist you with the form and print a new title with the designation clearly listed. Once you pass away, the beneficiary will be able to receive the vehicle, outside of probate, by returning to the title office with a few documents. For specifics on what to bring with you to obtain this designation, you can visit <http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/title-transfer-death.aspx> or call your local title office.

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

**** TWO DATES ****

**** TWO LOCATIONS ****

DUBLIN AREA

Thursday, July 21, 2016

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

600 Metro Place North
Dublin, OH 43017

POWELL AREA

Saturday, July 23, 2016

10:00am – 12:00pm

Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center

100 Green Meadows
Drive South
Lewis Center, OH 43035

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 740-400-4194 or email info@donaldlawoffice.com

to register today!



Office Happenings

Last month Matt mentioned that for his daughter Madison's 18th birthday he is going to give her the gift of an estate plan.

By the time this newsletter goes to "print", the second stage of that process will be complete. She will have had her design meeting. The first stage is making the decision to create an estate plan.

Many times clients are unsure as to how the process works with our office when they first meet with us. So in light of that, I

have decided that over the next two months, we are going to let you hear from one of our "clients" directly on how the process goes.

Madison will be providing insight into her experience in the section of the newsletter usually reserved for Matt's Message.

The first meeting is the initial consultation. During that meeting the entire process is discussed with the client, questions are answered, and the client makes the decision to move forward.

For Madison, that meeting has already occurred.

The next step is for Madison to meet with one of our attorneys to design her estate plan. That experience is what you will find below in this month's newsletter under Matt's Message.

We hope that having a firsthand experience reflected below will help "demystify" the process a bit for others that might be interested in creating their estate plan with our office.

Staff Spotlight

Nicole, her husband, Rob, and baby Rose took their first family vacation last month to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. It has been a tradition in Rob's family for many years to vacation in the beautiful Outer Banks and this year was Nicole's first time there! Of course, it was the first time for baby Rose as well and she loved it! Everyone had a relaxing

time swimming in the pool and the ocean. They also enjoyed local shops and museums as well as fresh island foods. However, they all got hit with a little bit of tropical storm Bonnie during their stay. That didn't stop Nicole and Rob from swimming in the ocean and taking a trip to the island of Ocracoke in the rain! The trip also allowed

everyone some much-needed family time. All of Rob's family lives in Ashland, Ohio which is a couple of hours away so the trip was a real treat. Nicole especially enjoyed just being able to relax and unwind. She is most grateful to all of her clients for understanding and allowing her to take a little break!

Matt/Madison's Message

My Dad said that as soon as I turned 18 that I had to create my estate plan because he and my Mom were no longer able to make decisions for me.

So I met with Jen. She's an attorney at the office. Super nice and sweet lady! She made me feel totally comfortable as I went through the process with her which was good because this whole being an adult thing is stressful.

Anyhow, even though my Dad is an attorney and he talks to me about legal stuff

once in a while, I still didn't understand everything. For example, I wasn't exactly sure how my financial matters would be handled if something happened to me. Jen explained that the power of attorney document we were creating would clearly state what I wanted done if something happened to me and I couldn't manage things. She also explained how I should pick not just a primary person but also a second and even third person just in case the worst happened and both my primary and secondary

people weren't able to help me.

The biggest thing that I took away from the experience is that I feel a tremendous sense of relief knowing that, even though I am adult now and have to make adult decisions, there are others that can help me if something ever happens to me and I can't do it for myself.

So now, if something bad happens, all I need to do is focus on getting better and recovering instead of worrying about everything.

Quote of the Month:

"Our greatest happiness does not depend on the condition of life in which chance has placed us, but is always the result of a good conscience, good health, occupation and freedom in all just pursuits."
– Thomas Jefferson



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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