



Florida Estate Planning & Elder Law E-Newsletter July 2019



America has celebrated its national birthday on July 4 for over two centuries. But did you know that the Continental Congress actually voted for independence on **July 2**? The final draft of the Declaration of Independence was approved July 4 and signed several weeks later. Arguing that July 2 should be recognized as our national holiday was John Adams, the delegate from Massachusetts who would later serve as president. He wrote to his wife Abigail: *"The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable Epocha in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated as the great anniversary festival."*

Adams didn't get his way on the date, but his prediction of a "great anniversary festival" certainly came to pass. Happy 4th of July!

All the best,
The Attorneys & Staff of The Karp Law Firm



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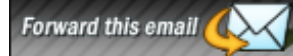
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Free Workshops

We are taking a break in July. No workshops this month! We are in the process of adding new dates, so keep your eye on [our website](#) for the upcoming schedule.

Electronic Wills Act Passes, Details To Come

Beginning January 1, 2020, wills in Florida may be digitally signed, witnessed and notarized, under certain strict conditions. Depending on the specific rules that have yet to be issued, this could end up being a a great convenience for some clients.

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Joseph Karp Recognized As Florida SuperLawyer

For the 13th consecutive year, Attorney Joseph Karp has been named a "SuperLawyer" by ThomsonReuters!

[Read more](#)

Will Your Social Media Account Undo Your Estate Plan?

A will contest over French rocker Johnny Hallyday's estate has been settled, producing a windfall for some family members, a loss for others. What finally settled the lawsuit? *Instagram!*



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Texting While Driving Now a Primary Traffic Offense

Effective July 1, texting (typing or reading) while driving can get you pulled over. For now you'll get a warning. Next year, citations will be issued.

[Read more](#)

HUD Has Good News For ABLE Beneficiaries

Under the ABLE program, disabled individuals no longer have to remain impoverished to qualify for vital federal benefits. The Department of Housing & Urban Development recently confirmed that, with a few exceptions, account holders seeking federal housing assistance will not be penalized.

[Read more](#)

Florida School Sales Tax Holiday

Florida's Back-To-School Sales Tax Holiday starts August 2 and runs through August 6. During this time you can buy many school-related items sales tax-free.

[List of eligible items](#)

What The Medicare Wellness Visit Is, Isn't

Medicare beneficiaries are entitled to a free annual wellness visit. To avoid surprise charges, it's important to understand that a wellness visit is not the same as a physical exam.



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Still A Teen, But Your 18-Year-Old Needs Adult Documents

Your child may always be your "baby," but the law doesn't see it that way. Your 18-year-old needs certain adult documents to protect him and give you peace of mind.

[Read more](#)

No Vanderbilt Inheritance For Anderson Cooper

"Poor Little Rich Girl" Gloria Vanderbilt died on June 17, leaving an estimated \$200 million estate. Her best-known child, correspondent Anderson Cooper, says he won't see any of it. That's fine with him.

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Listen To Elder Law Radio

There's always something new to be learned and usually a bunch of laughs when Attorney Joseph Karp gets together with Anita Finley on the radio. His next appearance is Saturday, July 13 at 7:30 a.m. Check our web page to find out how to listen live and to hear past shows.

[Visit our radio web page](#)

Jeopardy Contestant Wins Big; So Does the IRS

James Holzhauer's winning streak on *Jeopardy* came to an end last month, with the Las Vegas gambler racking up \$2.5 million. The IRS won big, too: it gets nearly half his winnings. Still, not too



shabby!

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We encourage our clients and readers to phone us if they experience legal problems our firm may not handle directly. We can often point you in the direction of someone we know and trust who can, whether in Florida or out of state. We are committed to being your law firm.



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