

Florida Estate Planning & Elder Law E-Newsletter April 2020

Who could have imagined a month ago that a pandemic was about to turn our world upside down? For older people who suffer from chronic loneliness, it is a particularly stressful time. At the front lines of this battle are our first responders and medical professionals, working tirelessly and at great personal risk. No less important are the hundreds of thousands of workers whose efforts provide us with some safety and semblance of normalcy: pharmacists, nursing home and assisted living staff, maintenance people, cleaning crews, restaurant workers, truckers, delivery people, grocery store clerks. Undoubtedly there are many more than mentioned here.

We too are on the job and assisting clients. For everyone's safety, we have modified some of our procedures. Happily, all has gone seamlessly. **[Find out more about how we are helping clients with their planning during this challenging time.](#)**

Just as the Greatest Generation's grit was forged during the Great Depression, it will be interesting to see what today's youngsters take from this situation. How will they view the world and their place in it? Time will tell.



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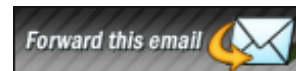
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Wishing a happy Easter and Passover to all who celebrate. Take all precautions, stay safe, and keep your chin up. This too will surely pass.

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



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CARES Act Changes Retirement Account Rules

The CARES Act signed into law on March 27 is a massive piece of legislation. Tucked into the \$2 trillion law is an easing of some retirement account rules, designed to help retirees and workers weather the economic downturn.

[**Read more**](#)

Beyond Berkshire? Not According To Buffet's Estate Plan

Warren Buffet is betting on Berkshire. He has advised his executors and trustees to hold on to all his Berkshire stock, despite the customary fiduciary duty to diversify



holdings.
[Read more](#)

Some Government Offices Have Gone Virtual

To protect the public and employees, Social Security field offices were temporarily closed to the public on March 17. These closures should not impact checks or direct deposits. You can learn more [here](#).

Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Offices have also shuttered their doors while we ride out the pandemic. In-person appointments and counseling have been cancelled, but you can still seek help by phoning 800-827-1000, or by visiting the VA website's inquiry routing page [here](#).

Real ID Deadline Extended

A trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles was never a treat, but now it could be health-threatening. Accordingly, the Transportation Security Administration has extended the deadline for obtaining REAL ID from October 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021.

[Read more](#)

Surviving Spouse Entitled To An Elective Share

In Florida, a surviving spouse is entitled to 30% of the deceased spouse's estate. What remedies exist if a survivor suspects he/she has received less than the lawful amount?

[Read more](#)

Beware Stimulus Scams



The giant CARES Act seeks to provide economic relief to citizens as we ride out the COVID19 pandemic. Predictably, the scent of money has opened up a wealth of opportunities for scam artists.

[Learn more](#)

How To Unload Your Unwanted Time Share

Many of our clients are happy owners of timeshares. But for at least as many, the property is a money-sapping burden that is near-impossible to sell. *Consumer Reports* offers some solutions.

[Learn more](#)

Bored At Home? How About Virtual Volunteering?

There is no need to be bored while you are at home riding out the pandemic. There are a number of volunteer opportunities available that you can do while sitting on your sofa!

[Learn more](#)

Should You Stay Or Should You Go?



If this were any other year, snowbirds would be packing up and heading North about now. But under these extraordinary circumstances, many are questioning the wisdom of going back. Should you stay or should you go?

[Read more](#)

The New "Normal" For Nursing Home, ALF Residents & Families

To reduce the chance of infection, nursing homes and assisted living facilities are observing a number of new rules. Among them: a temporary ban on most visitors that, while necessary, has many residents feeling increasingly isolated.

[Read about the new rules](#)

Federal Income Tax Delay May Not Apply To State Tax

For most taxpayers, the deadline for federal income tax filing and payment is now July 15, 2020. Florida does not have a state income tax. However, if you are a resident of another state that does, or have income from another state that does (for example, rental property) you must file a return there. You should check to see if that state has

extended its own deadline.

Thank You For Your Referrals!

Our attorneys and staff are always grateful for your referrals to our office. Please urge your referrals to mention your name, so we know who to thank!



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