

## Florida Estate Planning & Elder Law E-Newsletter December 2020

With several promising vaccines in the pipeline, there is light at the end of the coronavirus tunnel. That said, we are currently experiencing a surge in cases: Florida is one of three states to exceed one million cases to date. And experts warn that Thanksgiving travel may mean another spike in cases is on its way.

Our offices remain operational, with our attorneys handling all your planning needs by phone, facetime, zoom and email. The Karp Law Firm has used technology for many years to efficiently assist clients and families from afar. During these trying times, we are more grateful than ever for modern telecommunications. Of course, we still look forward to seeing you in person - as soon as possible!



Wishing our clients, colleagues and friends a safe, happy and healthy holiday season. We'll touch base with you again in a few weeks... in 2021!

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



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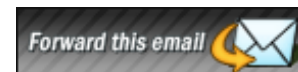
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**In This Issue:**

[Federal Estate Tax Changes In The Works](#)

[Getting Your Medical Records Can Be Aggravating: Know Your Rights](#)

[Estate Planning Lessons From Steve Bing's Extraordinary Life](#)

[Will Your Life Be The Same, Post-Pandemic? Maybe Not](#)

[We Love Our Clients...Love Their Feedback, Too](#)

[Tax Advantages Of Long-Term Care Insurance](#)

[Hear Attorney Joseph Karp On The Radio Monday, Dec. 14](#)

[Coronavirus Rules When Visiting A Nursing Home](#)

[Shopping Online This Holiday Season?](#)

[Call Us For Any Legal Matter - We Are Your Law Firm](#)

[Deadline For Penalty-Free Retirement Account Withdrawals](#)

[Canceled Air Travel? How To Negotiate For Your Refund](#)

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neighbors**



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**Federal Estate Tax Changes In The Works**

For many years most Americans have not worried about federal estate tax, thanks to a generous unified estate tax and gift tax exemption. But that will change in 2026 - possibly sooner. Here's a primer to help you understand this widely-misunderstood tax, and why your existing estate plan may need modification.

[\*\*Read more\*\*](#)

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**Getting Your Medical Records Can Be Aggravating. Know Your Rights**

Under federal law, you have access to most of your personal medical records. In reality, getting them can be a battle, with delays and excessive fees not uncommon. Know your rights.

[\*\*Read more\*\*](#)

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**Estate Planning Lessons From Steve Bing's Extraordinary Life**

Movie financier and Hollywood ladies' man



Steve Bing jumped to his death earlier this year, ending a life lived far outside the lines. His extraordinary story has much to teach us regular folks about how to approach our own estate planning, and its impact on our families.

[Read more](#)

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### **Will Your Life Be The Same, Post-Pandemic? Maybe Not**

More aging parents sharing homes with adult children? According to some experts, that is just one of many lifestyle changes we'll experience once this pandemic is behind us.

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### **We Love Our Clients...Love Their Feedback, Too**

We are always delighted to know that our work has given our clients and their families peace of mind. Have you seen the client testimonials on our firm's new website? Check them out [here](#).

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### **Tax Advantages Of Long-Term Care Insurance**

Long-term care insurance can help protect your nest egg. Did you also know that under certain conditions, you may deduct all or part of the premium from taxable income? The deduction levels increase in 2021.

[Read more](#)

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### **Hear Attorney Joseph Karp On The Radio Monday, Dec. 14**

Attorney Joseph Karp talks with senior advocate Scott Greenberg on the December 14 broadcast of *Oh My God, I'm Getting Older And So Is My Mom*. Listen in from 6pm to 7 pm on True Oldies 95.9 FM, or listen live [here](#).

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### **Coronavirus Rules When Visiting A Nursing Home**

You must now follow a number of special rules when visiting your loved one in a nursing home or taking him/her on an outing. The Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys has prepared an overview of what to expect.

[Read more](#)

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## Shopping Online This Holiday Season?



Online shopping is more popular than ever this year as customers avoid brick-and-mortar stores. Here is some advice on how to avoid fraud, tips for purchasing gift cards, and more.

[Learn more](#)

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## Call Us For Any Legal Matter... We Are Your Law Firm!

Please get in touch with us for all your legal matters, even those our office does not handle. We know many excellent attorneys in the community and will do our best to direct you to someone who can assist. Call (561)625-1100 or [email us](#).

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## Deadline For Penalty-Free Retirement Account Withdrawals

Under the CARES Act, if you are under 59 1/2 and were affected by the pandemic, you may make withdrawals from retirement accounts under certain conditions without incurring the usual penalty. The window for these withdrawals closes **December 31**. But beware: You will still owe taxes on the money.

[Read more](#)

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## Canceled Air Travel? How To Negotiate For Your Refund

Since March, many of us have had to cancel, reschedule or indefinitely put off our travel plans. Although there are federal rules in place with guarantees for air travelers, not all the airlines are adhering to them. From *Consumer Reports*, some tips on securing a refund.

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