



FLORIDA ESTATE PLANNING & ELDER LAW



August 2023

Summer is always hot and humid in South Florida, but our current weather has been off the charts. Heat can be deadly, so please take good care of yourselves, your children, your parents, your neighbors, and anyone for whom you serve as caregiver. And don't forget your precious pets! Check out these safety tips from the CDC: [Heat Safety Tips](#)



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

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A resident in a nursing home who receives Florida Medicaid benefits must relinquish all income to the facility, with just a few exceptions. Among the exceptions is the monthly Personal Needs Allowance. Effective July 1, Medicaid recipients are allowed to keep more income as their

Personal Needs Allowance.

[Learn more](#)

612,00 Medicare Beneficiaries Have Been Hacked

A security breach earlier this year exposed the personal information of many Medicare beneficiaries. Stolen data includes social security numbers, mailing addresses, phone numbers, health insurance claims and more. If you were a victim, you will receive a letter from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services explaining what to expect and what to do next. The link below explains more. Be sure to scroll down to the "What You Can Do" section.

[Read more](#)

Aretha Franklin's 2 Wills: Which One Gets *Respect*?



There is no shortage of people who spark family feuds when they pass away without leaving a valid estate plan. But Aretha Franklin, the "Queen of Soul," did so in an unusual fashion: She left behind TWO Wills that conflicted with one another. After five years, a Michigan jury has finally brought an end to her sons' legal battle.

[Read more](#)

Hearing Aids May Reduce Risk of Dementia

Are you finding it more difficult to hear these days? If so, do not delay getting hearing aids. A new study demonstrates a strong link between hearing loss and dementia, particularly for those at higher risk for cognitive decline.

[Learn more](#)

Floridians Must Re-Apply To Vote By Mail



Most people do not realize that Florida cancelled all mail-in ballot requests effective January 2023. This means that even if you voted by mail in the past, you will not automatically get a mail-in ballot now. **To vote by mail in the 2024 election, you must re-apply for your mail-in ballot.** Click below for instructions on how to re-apply. Our post provides information for non-Florida residents, too.

[Voting Information](#)

Move Over Law Changes Next Year

Beginning January 2024, drivers must move over one lane from any disabled vehicle. The prior law required drivers to move over only for certain types of stopped vehicles, such as law enforcement and first responders. Violators will risk fines and points on their license. According to the AAA, 350 people standing by the side of the road are killed each year by passing cars, and Florida is among the three deadliest states.

[Read more](#)

Estate Planning When Your Child Is Addicted



Our attorneys meet with many parents who agonize over how to leave an inheritance to a child suffering from substance abuse problems. Disinheriting your child is not the only solution, though; methods exist that can allow you to leave something to your troubled child without enabling his/her self-destructive behavior.

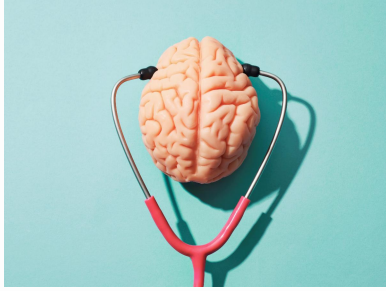
[Learn more](#)

Confusion Over Catch-Up Contributions

The 2022 SECURE Act provides retirement savers with new opportunities - and with considerable confusion over how the new rules apply. For example, beginning in 2024 those 50 and older who earn \$145,000 or more annually may make catch-up contributions with after-tax dollars, but vague and missing language in the legislation has many scratching their heads over how to proceed. The IRS is in the process of clearing up this and other issues related to the law.

[Read more](#)

Leqembi Approved For Early Alzheimer's



Leqembi is the first Alzheimer's drug approved by the FDA that targets beta amyloid plaques in the brain. It can slow disease progression in people who are in the early-stages of the disease, providing more quality time for patients and families.

[Read more](#)

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