WILD FELICE & PARTNERS, P.A.

August 2012 Volume 3 issue 8



Protecting What You Value Most Through Estate Planning and Asset Protection

Providing Solutions That Secure and Enhance Your Wealth and Your Legacy

Everyone understands the benefits of having insurance to protect your assets from unanticipated events. Hazard and casualty insurance is necessary to provide protection from the risks of fire, floods and wind damage. Liability insurance is necessary to provide protection from the risks of auto accidents and personal injury. But what can you do to protect your assets from claims in excess of your insurance or from risks of lawsuits or from unexpected business liabilities or from an overabundance of tax consequences? Fortunately having an asset protection plan in place can help insulate you from these potentially significant risks.

We believe in providing you with effective solutions so that you can have confidence that your assets and your legacy are protected. An effective asset protection plan needs to be in place before a lawsuit or claim is made against you, and well in advance of your retirement or death, so it is important to take the step toward greater protection today.

Wild Felice & Partners is a full-service, Fort Lauderdale, Florida based law firm with a specialty in asset protection. We utilize a combination of estate planning, real estate law, corporate formation, family law, and asset structuring to assure that our clients are protected from potential litigation, creditors, and any other threats that may be looming. A properly designed asset protection plan can accomplish many of your most important objectives:

- · Protection of family savings and investments from lawsuits and claims.
- · Protection against inadequate or unavailable insurance coverage.
- · Insulation of rental properties reducing your exposure to potential lawsuits.
- · Protection of business assets and accounts receivable from potential claims.
- · Elimination of probate.
- · Reduction of estate taxes.



IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Whether it's your child's very first day of kindergarten or last first day of college, this is a perfect time to begin thinking about long-term planning for the protection of your children. In this issue, we will discuss:

- Why you need to appoint a guardian for your child
- Joe Robbie: A lesson in poor estate planning
- Structuring your life insurance for the protection of loved ones

Every American should have an estate plan in place but the need for comprehensive estate planning is even greater when you have children.



WILD FELICE & PARTNERS, P.A.

101 N Pine Island Road, Suite 201 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324 954-944-2855 office • 954.653.2917 fax info@wfplaw.com www.wfplaw.com



August 2012 Volume 3 issue 3

GUARDIANSHIP FOR YOUR CHILD

A very important question we should all be asking ourselves is, "who will care for our little ones in the event something bad happens to us?" Sadly, the timing of our death or the probability of incapacity is beyond our control. Fortunately, the protection of our children depends on our initiative and the steps we take now, while we are still able. One such step is to formally appoint a guardian for our minor children. A guardian is someone who will make personal and financial decisions for your son or daughter after you are long gone.

Don't make the mistake of assuming a family member or best friend will automatically look after your kids. You may have the best intentions in the world, but unless it is correctly executed in a written Will, those intentions will not be fulfilled. Rather, your children will be left at the mercy of the court, subjected to a lengthy guardianship proceeding, and quite possibly end up in foster care.

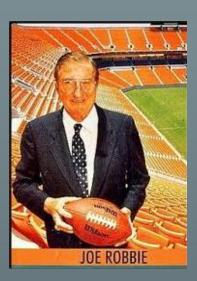
Although, a guardian has a legal duty to act in the child's "best interests", it may not be the kind of "best interests" you as the parent may have hoped for. Don't leave the future of your children to the whims of an unpredictable legal system. Put your wishes in writing and get your estate plan drafted now.



For your college students, an important question to think about is, "what would happen if your child was in an accident or fell ill while away at school?" Your child should have a Designation of Health Care Surrogate on file with the university and local hospital. If you child is unable to make his or her own health care decisions due to incapacity or unconsciousness, the infirmary or hospital needs to know who has the authority to make the decision on his or her behalf and how to contact you if such a situation arises.

Michael D. Wild is a Florida attorney specializing in the areas of estate planning and asset protection. For more information on successful Florida estate planning and asset protection techniques, please contact the South Florida law firm of Wild Felice & Partners, P.A. at 954-944-2855 or via email at info@wfplaw.com to schedule your free consultation. Protecting what you value most

Did you know?



Joe Robbie was the owner of the Miami Dolphins and a successful businessman with an estate valued at over \$100 million at his death. Unfortunately for Robbie's family, he was also the victim of poor estate planning. His mistake cost his family an estate tax bill of \$47 million and millions of dollars in legal and administrative fees! The family was forced to immediately sell the team, one of the most valuable franchises in professional sports, at deeply discounted price to cover such hefty expenses. The family was torn apart by bitter resentment.

This disaster could easily have been averted by proper estate planning.

WILD FELICE & PARTNERS, P.A.

101 N Pine Island Road, Suite 201 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324 954-944-2855 office • 954.653.2917 fax info@wfplaw.com www.wfplaw.com



August 2012 Volume 3 issue 8

STRUCTURING YOUR LIFE INSURANCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF LOVED ONES

If you have taken out a life insurance policy, you have made a good first step in protecting your spouse and children from possible financial hardship. Although the proceeds are tax-free income, did you know that for estate tax purposes, the proceeds in fact become part of your gross estate if you owned the policy during the last 3 years of your life? This could mean a hefty estate tax that your loved ones may have to pay to the Federal government.

The second step you should take is to see your qualified South Florida estate planning attorney to have your estate strategically structured in order to free your family from Uncle Sam's tight grip. One method is to have your attorney structure an Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust (ILIT). This is a legal instrument that combines the protection of a trust with the liquidity of life insurance benefits. It removes the life insurance from your estate and transfers the benefits into the trust. Since the ILIT becomes a separate legal entity that is outside your estate, the IRS cannot impose a tax on the proceeds because it is no longer within your control. Your family can use this ready cash to pay the estate tax bill and other administrative expenses after your death such as funeral costs, probate fees, and settlement costs.

You may designate your spouse, child, or other appropriate party as the beneficiary of the trust and provide detailed instructions concerning management of the trust. This includes how you wish the life insurance payout be distributed, when payments, loans or investments should be made, and when to terminate the trust. The trustee could also make appropriate loans to your spouse, children, and business you leave behind, removing the financial uncertainty and providing a home and an education for your children long after you are gone.

Michael D. Wild is a Florida attorney specializing in the areas of estate planning and asset protection. For more information on successful Florida estate planning and asset protection techniques, please contact the South Florida law firm of Wild Felice & Partners, P.A. at 954-944-2855 or via email at info@wfplaw.com to schedule your free consultation. Protecting what you value most.





THE CAGE-BIRD AND THE BAT

A singing bird was confined in a cage, which hung outside a window and had a way of singing at night when all other birds were asleep. One night a Bat flew in and while clinging to the bars of the cage, asked the Bird why she was silent by day and sang only at night. "I have a very good reason for doing so," said the Bird: "it was once when I was singing in the daytime that a fowler was attracted by my voice, and set his nets for me and caught me. Since then I have never sung except by night." But the Bat replied, "It is no use your doing that now when you are a prisoner: if only you had done so before you were caught, you might still have been free."

Precautions are useless after the crisis. Steps to secure your legacy must be taken now. Remember you only die once, so do it right the first time.

WILD FELICE & PARTNERS, P.A.

101 N Pine Island Road, Suite 201 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324 954-944-2855 office • 954.653.2917 fax info@wfplaw.com www.wfplaw.com

