WILD FELICE & PARTNERS, P.A.

MAY 2012 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 5



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 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 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.



COLLEGE PLANNING EDITION

Most people think estate planning is only for those that have an accumulated wealth or are in those latter stages of life. The reality is that every adult should have an estate plan in place. If your child or grandchild is about to go away to college, they should have the proper documents in case an emergency situation should arise. In this issue, we will discuss:

- The importance of having the proper documents for emergency situations.
- How to increase financial aid through the use of an irrevocable trust.
- Steps to maximizing financial aid for your college bound family member.

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



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COLLEGE BOUND KIDS - EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

Congratulations! You're the proud parent of a college bound teenager. This is an exciting time in your life; however, it can also be a time of concern for your family. You need a plan that includes safeguards for the unexpected events in life that always seem to come at the most unwelcome times. Once this plan is in place, you can relax with the knowledge that you have a sound financial and medical back-up plan that will protect your child from the unexpected times in life that could derail his or her educational future.

These are legal documents that should be prepared by a professional estate planning attorney who is familiar with the goals you wish to accomplish for your family.

The designation of a healthcare surrogate authorizes you to get information from a hospital or a doctor about your child. You will not be able to get this information once your child is 18 years old unless you have a document giving you permission to access the information. Additionally, your child may be unconscious and unable to give permission. Florida's HIPPA laws prevent the dissemination of medical information to others unless there are written directives authorizing the permission.

You will also want to prepare a durable power of attorney. This agreement will allow you to control your child's financial needs. A power of attorney will allow you to handle your child's affairs even though he or she is considered to be a legal adult. Most importantly, a durable power of attorney can be drafted to allow you to access your child's bank account in case you need to pay your child's bills, restrict her spending, or add to her account.

A living will is a document that a person uses to make known her desires regarding life sustaining treatments. Even though this may be an unpleasant conversation to have during this joyous time in life, it is important to complete this document. Once this agreement is prepared, you will have peace of mind with medical decisions you may have to make for your child in the event of an untimely illness or accident. Without a living will, the law requires the hospital to keep a person alive artificially permanently.

Needless to say, sending a child to college is one of the biggest emotional and financial events of your life. However, if you plan ahead, this can be a much less stressful situation.

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?



Another estate planning tool that you may want to consider is creating an irrevocable trust for child's college fund. A trust can protect your child's college fund from creditor's demands. Also, an irrevocable trust has its own tax ID number and is not considered an asset when calculating your taxes. Additionally, a trust does not go through probate. Therefore, if a child needs money for school, she can access the funds immediately in the event of your death. Furthermore, a trust can be set up with restrictions regarding how and when your money will be distributed to your child.

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ESTATE PLANNING: NOT JUST "SET IT AND FORGET IT"

Over 70 percent of all Americans have no estate planning documents whatsoever. Of the 30 percent that do, most have only basic documents like a Last Will and Testament, with no regard to probate avoidance, estate tax reduction or asset protection. Of those people that do incorporate a Revocable Living Trust into their foundational estate plan, over 90 percent will leave the trust underfunded or unfunded at death, causing the unnecessary loss of assets and unnecessary delay of distribution. Some basic estate planning upkeep could alleviate all of these concerns.

Your estate plan should be reviewed with an attorney at least once every 3 to 5 years. I review my clients' estate plans each year to determine if any changes need to be made due to a change in tax law (as happened in 2010), legal drafting requirements (as happened in 2005) or the Probate Code (as happens most years). However, the more pressing changes almost always occur on the personal side of the equation.

Over the course of every 5 year period, most families will see a birth, a death, a marriage or a divorce and this event could cause the need for an amendment to the estate plans of the individual members of that family. Additionally, the beneficiaries might be at different ages or competency levels and the Trustees, Personal Representatives and Guardians might be in different stages in life, areas of the country or financial levels than they were when you originally drafted your plan, which would cause the immediate need to revise and choose new role players.

Another consideration is the age of your attorney. Your estate planning attorney needs to be able to walk your children or other beneficiaries through the administration process. Is your attorney still alive? Is he still practicing? Will he still be practicing when you die? Does he practice in the state in which you currently live?



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THE MISER AND HIS GOLD Once upon a time there was a Miser who used to hide his gold at the foot of a tree in his garden; but every week he used to go and dig it up and gloat over his gains.

A robber, who had noticed this, went and dug up the gold and decamped with it. When the Miser next came to gloat over his treasures, he found nothing but the empty hole. He tore his hair, and raised such an outcry that all the neighbors came around him, and he told them how he used to come and visit his gold.

"Did you ever take any of it out?" asked one of them. "Nay," said he, "I only came to look at it." "Then come again and look at the hole," said a neighbor; "it will do you just as much good."

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Keep Money in Your Family by the SCIN of Your Teeth

The Self-Canceling Installment Note (SCIN) involves the sale of a business interest, stock, or an interest in real estate or other asset, typically to one or more family members of the owner/seller, or entity that represents them, in exchange for an installment note with a term shorter than the seller's life expectancy.

Unlike the classic installment sale, the note in a SCIN includes provisions for automatic cancellation of the unpaid balance at the death of the seller. In other words, the SCIN is a promissory note (evidence of debt), given by a buyer to a seller, with a provision under which the obligation to make any future payments ends at the seller's death. If the seller lives beyond the period over which installment payments are to be made, the "cancel at death" provision is ignored. If the seller dies during the term of the note, the buyer's obligation to make payments ends on the date of death.

The hoped for objectives are two-fold: (1) the exclusion of the unpaid balance of the note from the seller's estate and (2) the avoidance of any gift tax on the transfer.

The ideal candidate for a SCIN has a shorter actual life span than would be indicated by his/her actuarially projected life expectancy. The earlier into the specified term the seller dies, the more advantageous the SCIN is. This is because the property transferred plus all the appreciation and any income it has produced is removed from the transferor's estate. Only after-tax loan repayments received and remaining at the transferor's death are included in the transferor's estate.

BENEFITS OF A SCIN

- Prorate capital gains.
- Estate tax savings on asset appreciation.
- Estate tax savings on principal.



New Crisp Look – Same Great Taste

Wild Felice and Partners, P.A. continues to grow, as we have added another attorney and two new clerks. Our client base continues to grow, as do our accolades.

After winning the award for Small Business of the Year in 2011, we also took home the Rising Star Award from Super Lawyers magazine and the AV Designation from Martindale-Hubbell.

With the continuous spreading of wings comes the need for some rebranding. As you can see below, we have a brand new logo and you can visit our revamped website at www.wfplaw.com.

Even with our new and improved facelift, rest assured that you and your clients will continue to receive the highest level of customer service and legal skill.

Please take a moment to visit the new website and look around. I'd love to get your feedback.



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