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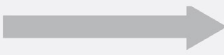


TAX CHANGES FOR 2015

IT'S TIME TO REVIEW YOUR DOCUMENTS

by Lori Ashmore Peters

This is the time of year that I encourage folks to review their assets, both probate and nonprobate. Trust me, it is always important to have this list as current as possible.

For those of you who have assets that require some type of tax planning I encourage you to review the chart below so you are up to date with the current figures. Then, I encourage you to take out your estate planning documents and review them to make sure those names listed in your documents ARE STILL the names you want listed in your documents. Lastly, I encourage you to contact your estate planning attorney to review your documents to make sure they still achieve your tax planning goals.

2015 Estate Taxes		
Estate & Gift Tax Amounts		
	2014	2015
<p></p> <p>Estate Tax Amount</p> <p>The estate tax is the amount of money a person can pass on free from federal estate tax.</p>	<p>\$5.34 million</p>	<p>\$5.43 million</p>
<p>Estate Tax Rate</p> <p>If the estate tax amount is exceeded, either the estate owner or their heirs will owe a tax.</p>	<p>40%</p> <p></p>	<p>40%</p> <p></p>
<p>Gift Tax Amount</p> <p>The gift tax is the amount of money that can be given to any person each year that's excluded from a gift tax.</p>	<p>\$14,000</p>	<p>\$14,000</p>



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STAY CONNECTED

THE ASHMORE LAW FIRM EVENT CALENDAR

March 22nd

12:00pm - 1:00pm

LUNCH N' LEARN - *Planning for the Future*

Free Informational Lunch at Sparkman Hillcrest Funeral Home

More information at: www.ashmorelaw.com/news/lunch-n-learn.cfm

Space is Limited - *RSVP to 214-559-7202 by 3/20/15*

March 28th

10:00am - 2:00pm

Visit our booth at the ***Texas Seniors & Caregivers Expo***

Stonebriar Centre - Frisco, Texas

More information at: www.texasseniorsexpo.com/north-dallas--frisco.html

March 31st

2:00pm - 2:15pm

Google+ Hangout -

How to Protect your Digital Assets

April 30th

2:00pm - 2:15pm

Google+ Hangout

For additional information on firm events, please call 214.559.7202 or email firmopinions@ashmorelaw.com.

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Spring Fun Facts

So long, snow! So long, ice scrapers and road salt!
Time to focus on sunny weather!

March marks the beginning of spring. It officially begins March 20, 2015. To celebrate, we'll share some facts about spring.

1. The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox.
2. Benjamin Franklin was the first to propose daylight savings time in 1784.
3. Spring fever is not just a saying. Experts say a person's body makeup often changes during spring because of variations in diet and levels of physical activity.
4. The #1 Easter food? Hard-boiled eggs!
5. The #1 Easter candy? Chocolate bunnies!
6. Every Easter season, Americans consume about 700 million Marshmallow Peeps.

Where did you spend
Spring Break?



Lori & her Family on Spring Break at Blue Mesa Lake in CO.



Lori's son Luke at Blue Mesa Frozen Lake in Colorado.



Lori's children Luke and Alexa skiing in Telluride, Colorado.

Frequently Asked Questions: DIVORCE

Q

What Should I Know Before Filing for Divorce?

A

First, it's important to consult with an attorney. A lot of family law lawyers have free consultations. Regardless of whether you think you want to handle the divorce yourself or not, you should speak with a qualified family law attorney to find out your options. Once you've done that, you can determine whether or not you can handle it by yourself. If there are any contested issues in the divorce, however, you should follow up by hiring an attorney.

Before you file for divorce, know what your assets and liabilities are, especially if you are the spouse who does not handle the money in the marriage. Know where

money is spent, your income, your spouse's income, all debts, who is on the mortgage, etc. You should know this information before you file for divorce as it becomes more difficult and more expensive to find after you file.

Finally, before filing for divorce, make sure you have a plan of action. Think of what you are going to do next before you go to a court and file for divorce.

For more information on the divorce process, request our free book, *What You Need to Know About Divorce in Texas* on our website at www.AshmoreLaw.com.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



We are pleased to announce the expansion of our estate planning department with the addition of a new attorney.

Britney Clark joins the firm after an 8-year career as an in-house attorney at a large Fortune 100 company, where she provided estate and business planning services to clients across the nation.

Ms. Clark arrives at Ashmore Law Firm looking forward to working directly with families and small business owners in addressing their personal and business planning needs. Ms. Clark focuses her practice on estate planning and probate, business succession planning, asset protection and charitable planning.

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