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Lori & Gary

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SUMMER TIME Visitation Schedules

Summer is a time for swimming, vacations, relaxing, and sometimes lots of confusion if you are a divorced parent. The standard visitation schedule in Texas is for the non-primary parent to have 30 days in the summer.

I typically see this parent exercise the full 30 days at once. However, many court orders provide that this time can be broken up into two separate periods. In my experience, this tends to be better for younger children, so they aren't separated from either parent for an extended period of time.

At the end of the day, if the parents can agree, they can do whatever they want. The court order and summer schedule only comes into play when there is disagreement.

How did your summer visitation schedule work? Now is the time to begin thinking about the upcoming fall and winter holidays and make sure your custody agreement is in order. If you think you need to modify your custody schedule, we are here to help!

*Contributed by: Whitney Keltch,
Attorney at Law, The Ashmore Law Firm, P.C.*



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Preparation for the Inevitable

VALUE GOALS LAST WILL & TESTAMENT HEIR ATTORNEY
ESTATE PLANNING
PLAN TRUSTS PROVISIONS IRA LIFE TAXES CHILDREN
ASSETS LIFE INSURANCE 401(K) PROBATE PROPERTY
LAWYER BANK

Clients often ask why they need to think about an estate plan...

They usually assume that their estate is not large enough to justify the expense of hiring an attorney to prepare documents. Or, even more often, they plan on leaving everything to their spouse which is simple, right? Wrong.

A recent article from the New York Times titled “Death Is Inevitable. Financial Turmoil Afterward Isn’t” gives a great perspective on why estate planning and financial planning isn’t “death planning,” but instead it is preparation for the inevitable. As the article points out, traditionally men have taken care of the finances and the planning, but all too often this means that their wives are left in

the dark after their death.

It is imperative that both spouses understand where their assets are and how they are managed. Estates with varying types of mortgages, pensions, bank accounts, stocks, and bonds will be handled in a different manner than an estate without any of these assets. This planning becomes even trickier if either spouse has a child from a previous marriage or if minor children are involved.

Having a good team in place before you die – attorney, accountant, financial planner, etc. – and committing to open communication about the assets you own before your death ensures that the surviving spouse will have the proper guidance to navigate his or her way through a difficult and, sometimes, confusing process.

Question & Answer

Q

Do I Need a Trust if I Own Property Outside of Texas?

A

We recommend that if you own property outside of the state of Texas that you have a revocable living trust. Without having the trust in place, upon your death, your family has to go through the probate process in every state that you own property. This can be a costly and time consuming process.

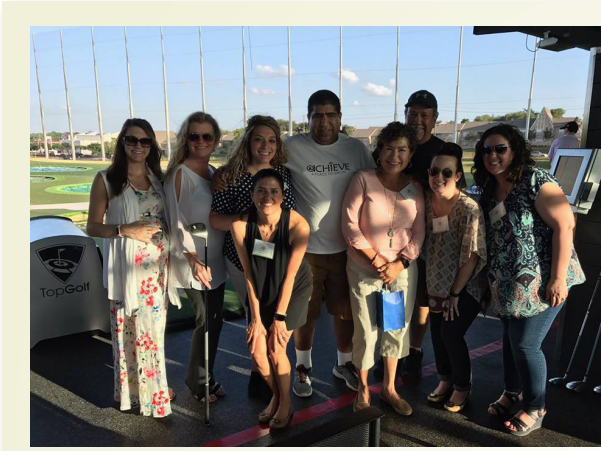
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Firm Events



Texas Scottish Rite Hospital's Farm and Ranch Day at Reverchon Park.



We were proud to be one of the sponsors for Achieve DFW's event at Top Golf Dallas.



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SUMMER ADVENTURES - A TRIP TO GREECE



Attorney Kimberly Wright had the opportunity to travel to Greece this summer with the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management graduate studies. She had many exciting and inspiring experiences including the opportunity to listen to stories from the refugees in Athens and to work with the HIGGS organization.