

# Firm Opinions™

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THE ASHMORE LAW FIRM, P.C.

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Probate | Estate Planning | Guardianship | Family Law | Civil Litigation | Personal Injury

## welcome to the first issue OF THE ASHMORE LAW FIRM'S NEWSLETTER – FIRM OPINIONS!

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Pictured from left to right: Sheppard Sands, Andy Nikolopoulos, Lori Ashmore Peters, Hutton Sentell, Joseph E. Ashmore, Jr., Gary Ashmore

The Ashmore Law Firm, P.C. is providing Firm Opinions to our clients, friends, family and community to provide you with interesting news and happenings at Ashmore Law. We would also like to share with you a forum to the latest issues and developments in the world of Law as well as current events in and around Dallas.

**The Ashmore Law Firm, P.C.** is a general civil law firm with 6 lawyers based in Dallas, Texas. With a strong commitment to outstanding and reliable legal work we pride ourselves with offering excellent client service. We represent a wide range of clients for all legal civil matters and

disputes including: Probate, Estate Planning, Personal Injury, Family Law, Guardianship, and Civil Litigation.

We are delighted to provide you with our Newsletter and we look forward to getting to know you better.

We would love to hear from you! Please email us your suggestions, ideas, topics or anything else you would like to discuss to **FirmOpinions@AshmoreLaw.com**. Please let us know if we can ever be of any assistance to you. ■

# are your assets protected

WHILE YOU ARE ALIVE? ARE YOU CONSERVING THEM AND CONTROLLING THEIR DISTRIBUTION AFTER YOU ARE GONE?

*It is not an easy topic to discuss much less think about, but remember it is easier to think about it when you are in good health. By setting your estate plan aside, you are not helping yourself or your family.*

By keeping this item at the bottom of your “to do” list and doing nothing you are creating your estate plan. It is what we call the “no plan” estate plan. The “no plan” estate plan could work, but it will not be you or your family who controls anything. It will be the State of Texas and the Court who takes control and makes all of the decisions.

## **Preparing Your Estate Plan**

People think of an estate plan as something you do when you are old or on your deathbed. Others think it is only needed if you have a lot of money. THIS IS SIMPLY NOT THE CASE. You need an estate plan in some form or fashion when you become an adult at the age of eighteen. That’s right, even at the age of eighteen you need to begin to answer some of the basic questions such as:

- What are your assets?
- What is the approximate value of your assets?
- Who do you want to manage your assets if you are not able to during your lifetime or after your death?
- Who do you want to get your assets after your death?
- Who do you want to take care of your minor children if you become incapacitated or upon your death?
- If you are not able to take care of yourself who do you want to make your medical decisions?

The first thing you need to do is talk to a qualified estate planning attorney who will be able to look at your answers and appropriately draft all of the necessary documents for your estate plan.

In order to ensure that your assets are protected while you are alive and their distribution is controlled after you are gone, the following documents are recommended:

**LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT** – to make sure you control the distribution of your assets upon your death.

**STATUTORY DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY** – to make sure you decide who takes control of your assets if you are incapacitated.

**POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE** – to make sure you decide who makes all decisions about your medical needs if you are incapacitated.

**DIRECTIVE TO PHYSICIANS (LIVING WILL)** – to make sure you make your own decision about which life sustaining treatments you want or don’t want should you have an irreversible or terminal condition.

If you already have an estate plan we urge you to review it annually to make sure it still meets all of your wishes and the requirements of the Federal Government.

Do your heirs a favor and get your estate plan in order - the “No Plan” estate plan is not the way to go.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 214-559-7202 or visit our website at [www.ashmorelaw.com](http://www.ashmorelaw.com) to learn more about our firm. ■

# warning: DON'T SKIMP ON YOUR UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED MOTORIST INSURANCE COVERAGE

The scenario is all too familiar – A person is injured in an auto accident only to find out that the other driver had little, or worse yet, no insurance. The reality is that most states do require drivers to carry automobile insurance; however, in all states in which insurance is required, many drivers are minimally insured or have no insurance at all.

You can protect yourself, though, by reviewing your own automobile insurance policy. Your “declarations page” lists the various coverages you have and the premiums you are paying for each. The most important item on that page (along with the limits of your liability coverage) is the uninsured/underinsured motorist coverages.

Uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage is critical because it protects you in the event that a person who causes you injury has little or no liability coverage himself. You should have coverage in the same amount as your liability coverage. In other words, if your liability coverage is in the amount of \$300,000, then your unin-

sured motorist coverage should be in the amount of \$300,000. You can elect to have less uninsured motorist

coverage than liability coverage, but this is not recommended. Check with your insurance agent; you may be surprised at how little the additional cost is.

If you have uninsured or underinsured coverage in the amount of \$300,000, and someone with \$25,000 of coverage seriously injured you, their policy would pay the first \$25,000 and your policy would step in to pay the next \$300,000 to provide you with coverage to \$325,000.

Uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage is a way for you to protect your family and yourself against irresponsible drivers. ■



## march fun facts:

**Birthstone:** Aquamarine, Bloodstone

**Flower:** Jonquil

**Astrological Signs:** Pisces: February 19 – March 20; Aries: March 21 – April 19

**National Nutrition Month**

**National Women's History Month**

**March 1** National Pig Day

**March 2** Read Across America Day  
Dr. Seuss

**March 5** Pancake Week

**March 10** Anniversary of the Telephone  
Invention

**March 13** Planet Uranus Discovered

**March 22** World Day for Water  
Goof-Off Day

**March 27** Sleep Awareness Week

**March 31** Anniversary of the Eiffel Tower

## did you know:

According to American FactFinder, 34.5 million US residents claim Irish ancestry. This number is almost nine times the population of Ireland itself (4.1 million).

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# warning



**REGARDING MOTORIST  
INSURANCE! SEE PAGE THREE**

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## Explore Texas!

*Why go away for Spring Break when you can stay right here at home?  
Texas has an abundance of Family friendly Adventures to offer!  
Here is a list of our favorites:*



Great Wolf Lodge – Grapevine, TX

Moody Gardens – Galveston, TX

Natural Bridge Caverns – Just outside of San Antonio, TX

Dinosaur Valley State Park – Glen Rose, TX

Cascade Caverns – Boerne, TX

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center – Glen Rose, TX

Inner Space Caverns – Just north of Austin, TX

Lake Buchanan Adventures - Texas Hill Country

Longhorn Cavern State Park – Just outside Burnet, TX

Fiesta Texas – San Antonio, TX

We'd love to hear about your "Explore Texas for Spring Break Adventure". Email [FirmOpinions@AshmoreLaw.com](mailto:FirmOpinions@AshmoreLaw.com) or write to us and we may publish your story in our next newsletter! Don't forget the photos!

Visit us at [www.AshmoreLaw.com](http://www.AshmoreLaw.com)