

Firm Opinions™

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THE ASHMORE LAW FIRM, P.C.

Expertise. Experience. Excellence.

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



Gary, Lori & Joe

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Estate Planning 101

TAKING THE CONFUSION OUT OF ESTATE PLANNING

70% of Americans do not have a Will.

What does an Estate Plan consist of?

Durable Power of Attorney

Names individuals to make your financial decisions for you in the event of incapacity or disability.

Medical Power of Attorney

Names individuals to make your medical decisions for you in the event of incapacity or disability.

HIPAA Authorization

Permits you to name individuals to have access to your medical information and records.

Living Will

Declares your wishes with respect to life-prolonging treatments and procedures.

Last Will & Testament

States how you want your property to pass and who will take care of your minor children upon your death.

Declaration of Guardian

Names individuals who will be the guardian of your person and your estate in the event of incapacity.

Without an **Estate Plan** the Court & State of Texas will make the decisions **for you!**

Having an Estate Plan can save your loved ones thousands.

Protect the assets you've worked so hard for!



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It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood...Meet our neighbors!



Reverchon Park (below)

First named Turtle Creek Park, it was renamed Reverchon Park after Julien Reverchon, a well-known botanist and a member of La Reunion Utopian Community. Reverchon Park was founded in 1915 and is one of the oldest parks in Dallas. The newly renovated stone work is amazing!

Old Parkland (above)

The original Parkland Hospital was built in 1894. In the mid-1950s, Parkland Hospital moved to its current location on Harry Hines. In 2008, Crow Holdings renovated & moved into Old Parkland. This picture shows the new three-building expansion. The new buildings will include office space, restaurant space and conference facilities. We can't wait to see the finished product!



The Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (above)

Established in 1921, the hospital is recognized as a world leader in the treatment of pediatric orthopedic conditions. Scottish Rite has treated more than 225,000 children since its inception, with more than 40,000 clinic visits each year. We love having them right across the street!

CAN FACEBOOK Ruin Your Case?

Popular social media sites can be a real headache if you're not careful.

With 1.11 billion users, Facebook is undoubtedly the most popular social media site in the world. You need to be careful what you post and share online especially if you are in the midst of a personal injury claim. It can actually ruin your case. How? Consider this:

- Photos posted by your friends can be viewed by people outside your network of "friends" despite your privacy settings.
- Courts have ordered injured plaintiffs to produce their Facebook pages to insurance company lawyers.
- Evidence from Facebook has been admitted in courts and has been used by police, investigators and media.
- Law clerks for insurance defense lawyers check Facebook for their opponents' pages, profiles and pictures.

So what steps can you take to protect yourself?

- *Critically review the photos and posts on your social media sites and remove anything that you wouldn't want the insurance company lawyer to see.
- *Check your privacy settings and see if you can block certain people from being able to see that you are even on the site.
- *Search for your name in the search field and review the information that comes up to make sure it's acceptable. Do the same for sites like Google+ and YouTube.
- *Never accept friend requests or respond to messages through social media sites from people you do not know.

While the above steps are not foolproof, they will make it less likely that your personal information ends up in the wrong hands. ■



NIGHTTIME DRIVING + TEENS + CELL PHONES = bad news

Like any other drivers, teenagers face a variety of risks when they get behind the wheel – especially if they drink and drive, speed, or fail to use a seat belt.

But, surprisingly, the biggest risk factor for teenage drivers is driving after dark, according to a recent study conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute.

Researchers who studied traffic fatality rates found that despite an overall drop in traffic deaths, nighttime fatalities actually increased. A closer look at the numbers revealed that among drivers over the age of 20, alcohol was to blame for the proportional increase in deaths, but that wasn't the case for teen drivers. The fatal crash rate of 16-year-olds is nearly twice as high at night.

So, what accounted for the rise in teen nighttime traffic deaths? Researchers pointed to one other crucial factor – The huge surge in cell phone use by teenagers.

Today's teenagers, having grown up with cell phones, are often so comfortable with a cell phone in their hands that they can develop a false sense of security and figure they can easily text or talk on a cell phone while driving. In fact, 48% of teen respondents say they talk on a cell phone or text, at least sometimes, while driving. Unfortunately, that's a decision that leads to disastrous consequences. ■

Firm Events

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU...

What would you like to read about in our quarterly newsletter?

If you have suggestions on specific topics you are interested to learn more about, please let us know by emailing us at FirmOpinions@ashmorelaw.com.

We specialize in the following areas of law:

Personal Injury:

Auto, Truck and Motorcycle Accidents, Wrongful Death, Dog Bites, Premise and Product Liability, and Medical Malpractice.

Family Law:

Divorce, Child Custody and Child Support, Pre and Post Marital Agreements and Name Changes.

Estate Planning and Probate Law:

Guardianships, Wills, Trusts, Probate Litigation and Trust Litigation.



*-Rangers Opening Day-
Celebrating of the start of Rangers baseball
season here at the office!*

STAY CONNECTED

THE ASHMORE LAW FIRM EVENT CALENDAR

April 30th
12:00-12:15pm

Google+ Hangout
Premarital Agreements

May 3
2:40-3:30pm

Lori's Presentation at the Alzheimer's Association Hope for Tomorrow
Alzheimer's & Driving: Are We There Yet?

May 8
7:00pm

The Katy Trail 5K
Come support your community and run the Katy Trail 5k with us!

May 22
6:30-8:00pm

Lori's Presentation at Cancer Support Community Collin County
Planning for the Future: How to Protect Your Assets

May 28th
12:00-12:15pm

Google+ Hangout
Things to know BEFORE filing for Divorce

The Ashmore Law Firm's articles have been featured in: **Edwards Jones Monthly Newsletter, White Rock Lake Weekly Newspaper, Katy Trail Weekly Newspaper & Living Well Magazine.**

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