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Lori & Gary

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Article by: Kimberly V. Wright

It's not just celebrities who go through divorces and child custody battles...

Even in the most turbulent of times in a family law matter, whether a divorce or a custody dispute, it is always best when the parents can reach agreements regarding their children. However, when emotions are high it is best to discuss your concerns with a *level-headed* family law attorney to determine the actions that will be in the best interest of the children.

In a recent *Yahoo* article, it appears that Angelina Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt consulted their attorneys and entered into agreements for the best interest of their

six children, ages 8-15. They have plenty of money to drag the matter through the courts, but they appear to want to do what is best for their children. Our family law courts allow temporary and final agreements to be prepared and filed with the court for enforceability. If there are no agreements, then litigation ensues and turbulence continues until a Judge determines what is best for the children.

Remember, getting the right advice prior to making the wrong move is best for everyone involved. ■



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The TOP 10

Must Have Parts of a Will

Do you know what your Will really says?

Although every Will is different, each should have the following provisions and information:

1 Heading, Marital History, & Children

- Heading – This section should state your full name, county of residence, and a declaration that you intend for this to be your Will.
- Marital History – This section should state whether you are married, divorced, widowed, or in a common law marriage.
- Children – This section should state how many children you have and if you have any adopted children or step children.

2 Debts and Taxes

This provision should state exactly how debts are to be paid and which assets are used to pay them.

3 Disposition of Assets

This provision is what we consider the “meat” of the Will. It should state exactly who you want to receive your assets and how your assets should be distributed.

4 Guardianship

It is important to list the guardian of the person and estate of your minor child/children. If you do not choose someone, a court will decide.

5 Executor and Trustee

This provision should list the person or persons you want to manage your assets and make sure the right people receive them.

6 Executor and Trustee Powers

You should always list the powers you want your Executor and Trustee to have. If you do not list these powers, the simplest of tasks, such as selling your house, will not be easily accomplished.

7 No Contest Provision

In order to address the possibility of any person – whether related to you or not – attempting to oppose the provisions or probate of your Will, we include a Will Contest Provision. We consider this provision to be non-negotiable and we require it to be in every Will we prepare.

8 General Provisions

These are “catchall” provisions that will vary depending on your situation. For example, a General Provision may include language stating how your estate could be impacted by a divorce.

9 Definitions

This provision defines certain words and phrases in order to eliminate any potential ambiguity.

10 Trusts

A Trust is optional and does not need to be included in every Will. However, if you have children under the age of 18, consider including a Minors’ Trust in your Will.



If you already have your Will, you should review it to make sure it has this information and if you need a Will, you now know what needs to be included.

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Happy New Year!



We wish you the best for 2017!





THE ASHMORE LAW FIRM, P.C.

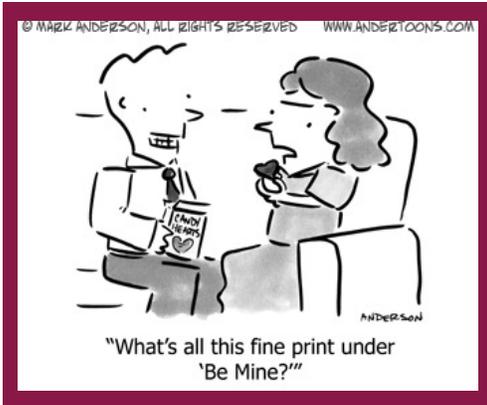
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Client Testimonials

We are thankful to have such great clients! Listen to what they had to say about us...

"I am very happy with the quality of work, responsiveness, and timeliness. I really enjoy working with all of the people at the firm."

"Whitney was absolutely amazing to work with! She's extremely intelligent, professional, personable, knowledgeable, and attentive to detail. She came highly recommended by a friend, and I couldn't have asked for a better attorney throughout this process. Absolutely recommend Whitney."

"The firm was very thorough and professional. They made the estate planning process very simple for us. Based on our experience, we are confident that they will serve the needs of others very well."