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Contact Column

AARP Grandparent Information Center

1-800-424-3410
Database: [http://www.aarp.org/
grandparents/searchsupport/](http://www.aarp.org/grandparents/searchsupport/)

Second Time Around
Dot Thibodeaux
(225) 355-5442

State Foster Care:

Questions about kinship foster care should be directed to Foster Care Program Director, at (225) 342-4006

For information about cash assistance through **Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP)**, Kinship Care Subsidy Program or food stamps call (225) 342-4051 or log on to http://www.dss.state.la.us/offofs/html/tanf_state_plan.html

For information about how to apply for **LaCHIP**—free or low-cost health insurance on behalf of the child you are raising—call 1-877-2-LACHIP or log on to <http://www.dhh.state.la.us>

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The Grandpaper



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Spring 2010

Alexandria Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Seminar

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana (GRGICL), and Susan Freundlich are combining efforts to host a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Seminar on Wednesday, February 17 at the Gladys Higdon Instructional Resource Center (Media Center) in Alexandria. The keynote speaker will be Judge Patricia Evans Koch, 9th District Court Judge. Judge Koch received a BA in History from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 1985 and her Juris Doctorate from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans in 1991. Judge Koch was elected to represent Division "E" of the Ninth Judicial District Court in October of 2005 and is currently serving as the Juvenile Judge for the parish. Her previous experience includes serving in the position of Hearing Officer for the Ninth Judicial District Court in February of 1999 presiding over child support and domestic violence cases. Prior to this appointment Judge



Judge Patricia Koch

Koch served as Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Workers' Compensation. While in her capacity as Juvenile Judge, Judge Koch is the lead over the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur's Models for Change initiative for Rapides Parish for juvenile justice reform and was named the 2009 Champion for Change in juvenile justice reform for the Louisiana Models for Change initiative. Seminar topics include:

- Partnerships With Schools
- De-Stressing Your Life
- Internet Safety for Youth and Seniors
- Resource Navigation: A Step-by-Step Approach

There will also be a legal panel available to answer questions on legal issues grandparents face, such as transfer of custody, visitation, and other issues. To register, call 318-442-0846, email lagrginfo@yahoo.com or go online to www.lagrg.org to register.

Cruising with the Grandparents

In response to grandparents request for more "fun" activities, a cruise planner has set-up an opportunity for grandparents to cruise together. This event is not sponsored by GRGICL. However, don't be surprised when you see some of the volunteer board members on the cruise, because they want to have fun also! Cruise departs on **November 4, 2010** for four days. There will be a

stop in Cozumel, Mexico. The ship leaves out of New Orleans. Prices range from \$361-\$491.

Deposit Due: \$75.00 per person at time of booking.

2nd payment: May 1, 2010 (\$75.00 per person, \$150.00 per cabin)

Final payment: Aug 1, 2010 (remainder of balance)

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LEGAL CORNER

Do I Need a Will? Louisiana laws are very different from any other state. Louisiana has very strict laws that control where property goes after someone dies. If there is no will, the State has a will in which certain assumptions are made. The first assumption is that the spouse should not inherit anything from the other spouse if there are children. The next assumption is that for separate property, nieces and nephews should inherit before the spouse. This usually comes as a big surprise to the surviving spouse.

What is a succession? Succession is the process of settling a deceased person's estate and distributing the property after debts are paid. This process is called probate in other states. In Louisi-

ana, succession and probate are essentially the same thing.

What happens to property when someone dies without a will? There are two things that are looked at first: was the property community or separate; and, what relationship are the survivors to the deceased? Community property is usually property accumulated by the couple while they were married (unless there was a marriage contract). Examples of separate property would be property owned before marriage, inherited property, or property given to one of the spouses. In general, a spouse inherits none of the other spouse's separate property. A spouse also inherits none of the other spouse's community

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12th Annual GRGICL Conference

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana (GRGICL) and other Louisiana Relatives as Parents (LaRAPP) will hold its 12th annual conference **Friday, April 23, 2010, from 8:00 am - 2:30 pm at the Holiday Inn South in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.**

Donna Britt, news anchor for WAFB Baton Rouge, will be the emcee. Barbara W. Green, founder of Inner Reflections, will be this year's keynote speaker.

Barbara W. Green is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Ordained Minister, motivational speaker and author of "The Parent Anointing." She is the President and CEO of an international business, Inner Reflections Counseling and Training Agency. Mrs. Green has traveled worldwide, training and conducting seminars including a visit to Denmark where she ministered at several local churches and a university. Mrs. Green received her undergraduate degree in



Barbara W. Green

"Licensed Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Ordained Minister, Motivational Speaker."

Secondary Education from Grambling State University and her graduate degree in Counseling and Behavioral Studies from Southern University. Additionally she has received training from several institutions including the Therapon Institute in Houston, Texas. She has provided services to numerous state agencies, educational institutions, private industries and religious organizations.

She has spoken to audiences that number, collectively, in the thousands. Speaking for many conferences, Mrs. Green has spoken to women, educators, health professionals, youth professionals, parents and clergy.

Her topics include: Team Building, Anger and Stress Management, Emotional Quotient vs. Intelligence Quotient (EQ vs. IQ), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Personality/Temperance Profile, The Little Girl Survived, Motivation for Youth and Employees, Parenting Skills, Career Strategies, Understanding Self to Understand Others, and many more.

Wishes “Granted”

GRGICL received good news on its grant applications:

- The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund has agreed to fund the Grandparents Advocacy Program and the statewide conference during 2009-2010.
- The Wilson Foundation granted funds to begin a legal assistance project to help grandparents with minor legal issues.
- The Junior League of Baton Rouge granted funds for GRGICL to market its 2010 statewide conference via Parents Magazine and promotional brochures through Franklin Press.



Judy Harrison, Dot Thibodeaux & Danna Spayde
(right)

Cruising With the Grandparents (cont.)



Details about the ship:

Carnival M.S. Triumph out of New Orleans is just above the mid class ship in Carnivals fleet. You can expect: 30 handicap cabins, disco club, shopping area, spa, casino, fitness center, internet café, Broadway style shows nightly, rolling entertainment through out the ship, 4 pools, hot tubs, 11 bars, and cruise elegant and casual dining.

Gift from Cruise Planners, Kennedale to your guests: \$50 per cabin onboard credit, bottle of wine to be given at dinner.

Reserve your spot on the cruise:

1. Call direct to the Cruise Planners, Kennedale office, David or Julie Green: (817- 478-7119).
 2. Make deposit at the GRG statewide convention at the Cruise booth
 3. Mail direct to our office with a registration form taken from our website or convention: POB 355, Kennedale, TX, 76060.
- Website: www.funoncruises.net

Happy Sailing

Do I Need a Will? Con't

property unless there are no children.

Can this be changed with a will? Yes, most certainly. A will can specify that a spouse inherits before anyone else. If there are forced heirs, the forced heirs have to inherit a portion, but the will can provide that the remainder go to the spouse (or anyone else named in the will). The will can also give the spouse a life time usufruct over the forced portion. A usufruct is a limited right to the use of a thing. In other words, if



you have a usufruct over stock, you would be entitled to the dividends from that stock. A usufruct granted in a will can even be

worded to allow the person with the usufruct to sell the stock.

What is a forced heir? At this point in time, a forced heir is any child of the deceased who is under the age of 24 years. Once a child reaches age 24, he or she is no longer a forced heir. A forced heir can also be a child, regardless of age, who is permanently disabled. So, you could have a child who is a forced heir until age 24, no longer a forced heir, and then has a stroke at age 40 which makes him a forced heir once again.

Do I need a will? A will can do many things. The most important thing a will can do is change the order of succession that Louisiana provides in the absence of a will. A will can also do many other things, for example: 1) name a guardian/tutor for minor children; 2) name an independent executor which can save probate costs;

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**GRANDPARENTS
RAISING
GRANDCHILDREN
INFORMATION CENTER
OF LOUISIANA**

Mission Statement: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana (GRG) is a non-profit organization committed to helping nearly 6300 grandparents in the Baton Rouge area who serve as the primary caregivers of their grandchildren. Through newsletters, support groups, and other events, GRG hopes to prepare, produce and promote better caregivers with the knowledge, motivation and ability to provide for their grandchildren.

Support Group Meeting: The Second Time Around Support Group meets at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of each at month at Family Roads of Greater Baton Rouge, 323 E. Airport, Baton Rouge, L.A.



Do I Need a Will (cont.)

3) create a trust for grandchildren, special needs or spendthrift heirs; 4) for larger estates, make provisions to save estate taxes; 5) remove any doubt as to what you wanted after your death. If none of this is important, then you may not need a will. Regardless, you should discuss the details of your personal situation with an attorney.

Attention Grandparents in the Greater Baton Rouge Area:

The Wilson Foundation has donated funds to help grandparents with minor custody legal issues. If you would like to apply, please call

355-0970 or (800) 310-7029, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5p.m.

Additionally:

Anyone with a legal problem in Louisiana is welcome to call the Louisiana Civil Justice Center (LCJC), the help line for legal information. LCJC does not assist with criminal matters and some services require screening for financial eligibility. The phone numbers are the same: (504) 355-0970 or (800) 310-7029, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. For online free legal help, visit lawhelp.org/la. Click on “Family & Children” or Seniors” for information on grandparents rights.

GRGICL Gives Thanks to Organizations for Holiday Help

During the holiday season, many grandparents are financially challenged due to increased expenses for school supplies, parties for children, holiday meals, distant relatives visiting families, gift giving, classroom parties and exchanging names for gifts, etc. We appreciate the gifts, food, supplies, and household appliances donated to our grandparents from the following persons and organizations:

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Board of Directors
- Mu Zeta Chapter—Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
- Catholic Charities of Baton Rouge
- Metro Health Education
- Greater King David Baptist Church
- Ann Martin/LSU English Class
- Representative Regina A. Barrow

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