



Plan Today to Secure your Tomorrow

Q&A

Question:

What is a pet trust, and how does it work?

- Doggy Daddy

Answer:

Dear Doggy,

While it's possible to name a caregiver and leave them funding for your pet in a will, a will cannot guarantee the new caregiver will use the funds properly. In fact, a person who's left a pet in a will can simply drop the animal off at a shelter and keep the money for themselves.

Given this, the best way to ensure your pet is properly cared for is to set up a pet trust, which is similar to a trust used for humans. A pet trust allows you to lay out legally binding rules for how the funds in the trust can be used. Additionally, pet trusts can cover multiple pets, work in cases of incapacity as well as death, and they remain in effect until the last animal dies.

continued on Page 2



How to Nurture Your Parent-Child Bond

Like any relationship, the bond between a parent and child can be made stronger with some habits that can be easily incorporated into your everyday routines.

Eating Together - An impressive body of research has shown a link between regular meals with kids and an increased likelihood of positive developmental benefits such as better health and eating habits; strong mental, emotional, and social skills; improved behavior; and better academic performance. Even if you can't find time to have dinner together every night, schedule family meals whenever you can, as much as you can. If your weeknights are packed with late hours at the office or extracurricular activities, you can still find solutions, such as having breakfast or snacks together. The key is to make

continued on Page 2

Page 1

To ensure your wishes are properly carried out, you should name someone other than the caregiver as a trustee. This way, the trustee can manage the funds and make sure they are used exactly as spelled out in your instructions.

As your Personal Family Lawyer®, we can help you create a pet trust to ensure your beloved companion receives the love and care it deserves.



Grilled Peach Crumble

- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 TBSP light brown sugar
- ¾ TSP kosher salt
- ¾ TSP ground cinnamon
- 4½ TBSP unsalted butter
- 4 ripe peaches
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Vanilla ice cream, for serving

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Mix together the flour, sugar, salt and cinnamon. Add the butter and use your hands to work it into the dry ingredients until combined. Spread the crumble mixture onto the prepared baking sheet, and bake until golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Cool.

Prepare a grill or grill pan for medium-high heat. Halve the peaches and remove the pits. Brush each half with olive oil. Transfer to the grill cut-side down. Grill until grill marks form, about 3 minutes. Cool slightly.

To serve, top with crumble and a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Recipe: www.purewow.com

family meals fun, talk about the day, and stay connected with your kids.

Talking About Your Day - Like dinnertime, bedtime is a great opportunity to catch up with your kids about the day. You can ask them questions that will prompt them to answer in detail, like "What was the best part of your day today?" or "What was the funniest thing that happened today?" Then be sure to talk about your day, and share details like what you were most proud of achieving that day or what problem you may have and how you plan to solve it. By sharing something about yourself, you are showing your child that you value them as a person and feel close enough to confide in them. You also strengthen your bond and show them that they are important to you.

Playing Together - One of the best ways to bond with your kids is by having fun together. Go outside and ride bikes together or kick around a soccer ball. Or grab a fun family board game (make it an educational one if you wanna find something that'll challenge them cognitively) and encourage them to work on great social skills and good manners, like learning how to be a gracious winner or loser, while you have fun. The activity doesn't matter as much as the fact that you're doing something fun together. You can make fun crafts, cook favorite meals, bake some treats together, or even watch and then "review" a great kids' movie. Do something that you both enjoy and connect while you're doing it, just as you would with your spouse or a good friend.

Being Respectful and Expecting the Same - Kids can sometimes be exasperating, and can certainly make mistakes. But parents should keep in mind that treating kids with respect is as important as disciplining kids. Even if your child has done something that requires you to discipline them, you can speak to them in a calm and loving manner. Yelling or using corporal punishment have been shown to not only be less effective, but they can harm the quality of your relationship with your child. Good manners should not be something that you only use outside the home. Remind kids to say "please" and "thank you" and make sure you do the same! Treating each other with

continued on Page 3

respect and courtesy will not only bring you closer together but will make your home a more pleasant place to live.

Letting the Kids Help - Kids naturally love to be helpful, and when you give them chores and responsibilities, you boost their self-confidence and make them feel valued. Tell them how great a job they're doing, and how much you appreciate their help. Not only will it bring you closer together, but it'll help your kids grow into confident and kind people who love helping others.

Cuddling! - Cuddling and hugging is not only a wonderful way to connect with your child and strengthen your parent-child bond, but research suggests that it may even reduce your odds of getting sick. So let your child know how much you love her with lots of hugs throughout the day, and she'll grow up hugging you right back!

Showing Your Child Love Daily - Do little things every day to show your child how much you love them, like writing a note and tucking it into his lunchbox. Planning fun things to do on the weekends and giving your full attention when they're talking, can make a big difference in the quality of your relationship with your child. Show your child every day how much he means to you and you'll be doing something to strengthen the bond between you and your child and make it lasting and unshakable.

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/habits-that-will-strengthen-your-parent-child-bond-620063>



What You Should Know About Guardianship—In Case You Or A Loved One

Whether through illness, injury, or other means, anyone can require a guardian to become appointed if they become mentally incapacitated. In such cases, if there is no estate planning in place (or insufficient planning), the court process in probate court must appoint a guardian.

Obtaining guardianship can be a challenging and expensive process. It begins with filing a petition in court for guardianship and requesting the court declare the incapacitated person incompetent. Such a petition can result in a heated dispute

between family members and friends, who may claim they'd be better suited for the role. In some cases, these filings are "ex parte" or in secret, and guardianship can be established before the family or close friends even know what's happening.

Sadly, most people don't think of the possibility of incapacity. To prevent court and conflict, in the case of incapacity, you must have the proper planning in place that includes a valid durable power of attorney and advanced health care directives.

If you or someone you love would need to appoint a guardian, here are some of the things you'll need to know:

Who can be a guardian?

Any interested person can petition for guardianship if there is no legal plan or document for this situation. That said, most courts give preference to

continued on Page 3

Page 3

the spouse or other immediate family members. In some cases, the person petitioning would need to post bond, which typically requires good credit and some level of deposit in the event of the guardian's wrongdoing.

Suppose a relative or friend is not willing—or capable—of serving. In that case, the court will appoint a professional guardian or public guardian. A professional guardian is one of the expenses that can deplete an estate very quickly.

What are a guardian's responsibilities?

Depending on the extent of the person's mental capacity, a court-appointed guardian can have near-complete control over the person's life and finances. The scope of approved duties is up to the court.

Some of the most common responsibilities include:

- Paying bills and handling finances
- Determining where they live
- Monitoring their residence and living conditions

- Providing consent for medical treatments
- Managing real estate and other tangible personal property
- Making end-of-life and other palliative-care decisions
- Reporting to the court about the person's status at least annually

The court can also divide out responsibilities to multiple parties. For example, one person may oversee the financial decisions, while another handles living arrangements and healthcare decisions.

Are guardians compensated?

The appointed guardian is paid a reasonable compensation directly from the ward's estate.

Don't leave you or someone you love at risk. Contact us as your neighborhood Personal Family Lawyer® to get your planning in place, even if you have an estate plan.

Who Stays With Your Children?

Parents, you spend hours agonizing over who stays with your children when you run to the store or go to work...but have you given the thought to what would happen if you were in an accident or died? Of course, we don't like to think our kids will ever go without us but it's important to know a will is not enough to protect them! By planning ahead now you can have peace of mind knowing they will be ok and live the life you'd like them to.

To make sure your kids are taken care of if something were to happen to you, you must put in place a well-considered estate plan, and usually, a simple will is not good enough. When you and your parenting partner meet with us for a Family Wealth Planning Session™, you will choose the right guardians for your kids and avoid making any of the 6 common mistakes most families (and most lawyers) make when naming legal guardians.

Be one of the first 5 to schedule in September and we'll waive our regular \$750 planning session fee. Plus, you'll take home a free copy of the bestselling book "Wear Clean Underwear" which will reveal the #1 secret to keeping your money AND your kids safe.