

# McChesney Law Firm Newsletter

## PLANNING AHEAD FOR YOUR SUMMER VACATION

### **SUMMER IS COMING!**

Greetings from McChesney Law Firm! We hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. The weather is absolutely beautiful right now and we are all enjoying St. Augustine this time of year. Summer is right around the corner. As the temperatures heat up, most of us plan a vacation with friends or family during the summer months. With this newsletter, we wanted to provide you with some information you may not have thought about as you prepare to leave on vacation. There's already a lot to think about when we plan vacation: who will watch our house; who will watch our pets if they aren't coming with us, etc. This newsletter is meant to provide you with information you may not have thought about in the hopes that when you do head out on vacation, you will have full peace of mind that you are fully prepared. All that is left after that is to relax and ENJOY VACATION!!

### **Do you have these essentials documents in place before you go?**

**1. Will:** You may have been putting this off, but it is crucial to have a Will in place before you go away. Without a will, the state of Florida will distribute your assets and, unfortunately, it's not always going to be your spouse, kids, or other family members. You can also name a guardian who will take care of any minor children in your will.

**2. Durable Power of Attorney:** This document allows someone you choose to make financial, legal, and administrative decisions on your behalf if something happens and you aren't able to. You can grant your agent broad or limited power depending on what you are hoping the power of attorney will accomplish. If you so choose, a power of attorney can have access to your bank accounts, handle financial transactions, file taxes, pay bills, buy and sell property, and more.

**3. Health Care Surrogate:** This document gives someone you choose the power to make medical decisions for you and in your best interest if you are ever unable to make them for yourself. This document allows your designated surrogate to decide what type of treatment you should or shouldn't have and consult with your health care providers to make the best possible decisions. We always include a HIPAA provision when we draft this form for you, so your surrogate can have access to all of your medical history and information.

**4. Living Will:** Like a health care surrogate, a living will is a document that states whether you would like to withhold or withdraw life-prolonging procedures if you are in a vegetative state, have a terminal condition, or have an end stage condition.

**5. Preneed Guardian Designation:** This form allows you to choose in advance who you wish to be in charge of your person and your property if you become incapacitated and need a guardian appointed by the Court. In addition, this form allows you to say who you do not want to be your guardian.

**6. Preneed Guardian Designation for Minor Children:** Even if you have a Will, you also want to have completed this form which always to designate who you want to care for your children if the unthinkable happens.

**If you already have all your documents drafted, check the following:**

Are they up to date?

Are they in a secure location?

Does someone know where they are?

**Lastly, organize these other important documents as well:**

Birth Certificates for you, your spouse and children

Marriage License

Titles to Vehicles

Deeds to Property

Tax Returns

Digital Asset Information – usernames and passwords

Social Security Cards

Passports

**Now it's time to enjoy vacation!**

We can help you with all of the essential legal documents we've outlined in this newsletter and can you help you update any documents you already have. We hope your summer is both fun and relaxing and we hope that above all you enjoy this beautiful time with your family!

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