Sample 1

Marijuana Charges and the Law

As America embarks on a journey of legalization of marijuana in state after state, the laws surrounding cannabis possession, use, and distribution are becoming more complex. In New York state, marijuana remains illegal as a Schedule I substance. This, despite changes made by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2014 to permit very limited medical use.

About 40,000 arrests are conducted each year in the state, most of which are for possession. Although this may not seem too bad, the law offers up several classes of felonies just for possession. Five felony charges apply to the sale of marijuana and trafficking is far worse. Anyone facing marijuana charges should not wait to call an attorney.

How Serious are Marijuana Possession Charges?

Marijuana possession carries penalties which depend on the amount seized. Following is a breakdown of the amounts and penalties if convicted of marijuana possession in the state:

- Anything less than 25 grams (.88 ounce) is a civil violation with no jail time, but a fine.
- Between 25 grams and two ounces (56.69 grams), the penalty may include up to a $500 fine and three months in jail.
- Between two and eight ounces (56.69 grams to 226.79 grams), you are facing up to a year in jail and up to a $1,000 fine.
- Between eight and 16 ounces (226.79 grams – 453.59 grams), a conviction means up to a $5,000 fine and/or between one and seven years incarceration. Note that this is only for first-time offenders. A second conviction carries mandatory imprisonment.
- Between 16 ounces and 10 pounds (453.59 grams to 4535.92 grams), the penalties increase to one to seven years incarceration and up to $5,000 in fines; again, a second offense is automatic prison time if convicted.
- Finally, more than 10 pounds is met with one to 15 years incarceration, but the potential fines remain up to $5,000. Again, second-time offenders who are convicted will face prison.

Clearly, marijuana possession is nothing to play around with. If charged, you need legal help right away.

Sample 2

The 13 Anchors of Collaborative Divorce

Divorce may be a trend among celebrities, but among the average persons it is downright stressful. You may have thought that America has the highest rate of divorce as a country, but their 53% of divorces is 17% short of Belgium's. Giving Belgium the title of 'country with the highest divorces', at 70%. But as a continent, it is Europe that has the highest number of divorces, at a total of 60%. [1]

The dissolution of a marriage is a big deal. That is why people usually take to legal separation before actually going in for an actual divorce. If after the given period of separation the husband or wife, or both decide they want out, then a legal annulment will be arranged for. However, if the relationship between the couple is endangering either one, the couple can call for a divorce.

A divorce doesn't have to be a nasty affair. Two people can handle it in a very civilized manner. Whether the reason for divorce was spousal misconduct or a mutual decision, marriages do not have to end in bitter hate. When it comes to the division of property, child custody and the payment of alimony a peaceful agreement can be reached. There is no need to wage a war against each other.

Collaborative Divorce/ Collaborative Law

Don't imagine your divorce to be like a drama fest you've seen on TV. Or base the outcome of your divorce on your friends and family members. You can make you can get a dignified and civil divorce through 'collaborative law'. A collaborative divorce is different from mediation; however, it is conducted between both spouses and their solicitors without the possibility of going to court. With a collaborative divorce the traditional win-lose mentality does not arise. The whole aim here is to focus on what the family needs and let both sides win.

Each party will have an attorney present to represent their interests and ensure the legal factors of collaborative divorce are followed. During the divorce proceedings a neutral counseling or therapist professional may be present to advice and counsel both parties. Similarly a neutral cooperative parenting specialist and a financial expert can assist in determining how the couple's finances should be divided, what is the right amount of alimony, who should get child custody, how much time should each parent get with their children. You may think that having all these experts and professionals present will cost you a fortune, but if you really compare collaborative divorce with a traditional litigated case, you will find it to be much cheaper.

The Process

The whole process starts off with the couple explaining what is important to them. These are anchor statements, they help everyone see what is important to the parties involved in the collaborative divorce. Next everyone focuses on the task of understanding, creating a sense of trust, respect and attaining solutions that are fair to the divorce parties and their family. This way there won't be any additional expenses and delays like in a contested proceeding.

Sample 3

Top 3 Trends in California Divorce

While California has pioneered the one-day divorce aided by family courts, there are some amazing divorce trends that are taking this state and the rest of the nation by storm. These divorce trends have a huge effect on the society as well as culture. In fact, they shape the path our society takes as time goes by.

Some of the recent divorce trends seen in California are as follows:

1. Gray Divorce

California has always been a little different from other states in the U.S. While the overall rate of divorce in the country is gradually going down, it has been observed the number of divorces among older couples – 50 and more – are on the rise.

The baby boomers were the first generation in the United States that married for personal fulfillment. The previous generations married because they had to fulfill expectations of being a good husband, wife or parent or for financial stabilities. However, baby boomers want personal happiness and fulfillment; and when that is not present, they have no qualms about divorcing their spouses even after being married for 30 or 40 years. They are not afraid to make that leap into a new world and explore it on their own.

(Older Divorcing Couple Image)

Law Content Samples

Title: Power of Attorney Template for Missouri

Keywords: Missouri, Power of Attorney, Document Template

A Power of Attorney form is a legal document by which you can appoint a person to be your lawful agent. An “agent-in-fact” is the one who has complete authority to act on your behalf as per the conditions laid down by you in your Power of Attorney form.

The person who creates the Power of Attorney is called a Principal and the appointed person in the form is called an agent. If you appoint an agent by your Power of Attorney form, then that agent can act within the laid authority. Under a power of attorney an agent can be made to carry out a specific task or multitudes of tasks repetitively.

Who can be appointed as the Power of Attorney?

Normally an agent appointed by a Power of Attorney is an adult and is often a family member, solicitor or some trusted individual. However, the person appointed doesn’t need to be a resident of Missouri.

Some of the statutes under the Missouri Law which may prevent a person from being an agent are:

- If a person is connected to the Missouri Dept. of Mental Health or Missouri Dept. of Social Service unless someone else is a close relative of the principal.
- No judge or clerk of court can be an agent.
- No person under the age of 18 can be a Power of Attorney or any person who is lawfully declared disabled or incapacitated or no habitual addict.
- In case of a Health care provider, a person who is the physician in charge of the principal and no one who is even remotely connected to the facility of health care of the principal unless a person is a close relative.

General Power of Attorney in Missouri - Powers

Before 1989, a valid power of attorney had to mention in detail all the authorizations of the agent for it to be valid. However after a law adopted by the Missouri government in August 1989 it is possible to make a “general” POA in Missouri.

According to the Missouri Govt. Statutes some of the powers that need to be specifically listed in the Power of Attorney in Missouri are:

- To amend, execute or revoke any kind of trust agreements
- To fund with the assets of the Principal any trust that is not created by the Principal
- To revoke or make a gift of the principals assets in any trust
- To deny a gift or devise of property which may be of any value for the Principal
- To make or edit survivorship interests in the Principal’s property or any property which may have any interest for the Principal.
- To give or refuse consent to an autopsy examination