

It Is Time to Act: You Have Been Putting Off Your Estate Planning Long Enough!

BY BEN KINIRY, ESQ.

“A new year a new you!” is what I heard proclaimed on the radio on my way to Laboe & Tasker today. Of course they were discussing new-year’s resolutions and the sense of a new opportunity many of us have when the clock strikes midnight on December 31 each year.

This writing is intended to encourage those who have been pushing off setting up an estate plan for years, or even decades, to grab this new opportunity to plan. I’m writing to those who have thought about conducting estate planning on many occasions over the years and have even discussed this topic with their spouses and friends. This is for the person who in the context of a discussion on the topic would be agreeable and say “yes, I need to get that done” and mean it, but somehow still lets it fall by the wayside.

Well, here I am, another voice beating that same estate planning drum, hoping to awake your desire to have an estate plan in place. It’s a new year, a fresh start for you, and a meaningful resolution for you would be to get your affairs in good order, if not for your own sake, then for your loved ones. Will you follow through? I hope you do and wish the *new you* luck in accomplishing this and any other goals you have for 2018.

If you don’t know what an estate plan consist of, or don’t know what questions to ask in a consultation, don’t concern yourself. I would be happy to explain what the goals of an estate plan are in our estate planning consultation. Also, the next paragraph and thereafter contains language from a previous article that will give you additional insight as to what you may want to discuss in an estate planning



consultation and accomplish by setting up an estate plan.

There are so many issues that estate planning and elder law attorneys can help you with, and perhaps should help you with, that you are likely unaware of or certainly are not thinking about on a daily basis. In order to help clients figure out what they would like to accomplish beyond the one or two issues that are on the forefronts of their minds, I offer a checklist titled “Peace of Mind Checklist,” which you will find below.

The Checklist is intended to be a list of the types of things or questions that people should or could be asking themselves in regards to their loved ones. I would have you review the Checklist and see what comes to mind. If you find that you have questions on these topics or if you believe there are actions that you should or could be taking, I would have you contact our firm to discuss them further.

If I could make a self-serving suggestion, I would have you cut the Checklist out of the Bow Times and set it aside in a drawer. Perhaps someday, when you believe it’s time to take action, the Checklist may be helpful in facilitating a conversation with the attorney who is helping you develop your plan.

LABOE & TASKER PLLC

Peace of Mind Checklist

Please check the following questions that are important to you:

_____ I am concerned about losing my assets to the high costs of long-term care for myself and my spouse. Will we lose everything to pay for care, or are there options?

_____ My child is disabled. How can I protect his or her future?

_____ How can I set things up so my kids’ inheritance will be protected if they get divorced or are sued?

_____ My parents are aging. What should I know to help them to remain independent and protect their assets?

_____ How can I minimize or eliminate paying taxes upon my death?

_____ Do I have to be wealthy to benefit from a living trust? What are its benefits?

_____ If I can’t make legal and financial decisions for myself, how can I be sure my affairs are conducted in my best interest?

_____ If I am too ill to make health care decisions for myself, how can I be sure my wishes will be carried out?

_____ How can I be sure my money and property end up in the right hands when I’m gone?

_____ My parent just passed away. What do I do now?

_____ How can I assure a long term income stream from my retirement accounts to my children when I’m gone?

_____ How can I ensure my children won’t have to go to the probate court when I die?

Many of our clients came to us with the same questions and many others. I hope to see you in 2018 to help you fulfill this resolution.

The information provided in this article (and the checklist) does not constitute legal advice.

You can reach Ben at 224-8700.

2017 Annual Chief’s Award Goes to Justin Abbott

(The following remarks are from Chief Harrington regarding the Annual Chief’s Award.) The 2017 recipient of the Chief’s Award began serving in November 1995 as a Fire Explorer. Since his first day, he has had service to the Town of Bow in his blood. As a member of the Bow Fire Department he has responded to 1,861 incidents and continues to be in the top 10% of responders annually. Also evident of his commitment, is his attendance to 764 training sessions to date. When he is available he comes out, no matter how minor the call, always willing to help.

In addition to being active he also gets the job done. He has been previously recognized for his outstanding performance at building fires, motor vehicle extrications,

and natural disasters.

While his attendance and competency are strengths his personality and attitude are even better. He is humble, quite, often overlooked; yet solid as a rock. This years recipient has a constant can do, whatever you need mentality. Whether it’s a medical call at 2 am, shoveling hydrants on his day off, or participating in open houses; he is always there.

This member of the department continues to make the Bow Fire Department a priority in his life even while raising a young family. He emulates everything the volunteer/on-call fire service is and should be. It is a distinct honor and pleasure to present the 2017 Chief’s Award to Justin Abbott.

Bow Rotary Club Ringing the Bell



Members of the Bow Rotary Club Rang the Bell for The Salvation Army at Market Basket on Fort Eddy Road on Friday, December 22, 2017 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Members Betsey Patten, Gale Kenison, and Donna Deos were but three of the 25 club members who participated during the day to help raise money for The Salvation Army.