



PROVIDING PEACE OF MIND
ONE FAMILY AT A TIME!

ELDER LAW + ESTATE PLANNING
PROBATE LAW + VETERANS PENSION
SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST/DISABILITY PLANNING
CONSERVATORSHIPS/GUARDIANSHIPS
ASSET PROTECTION/MEDICAID PLANNING
RETIREMENT ACCOUNT + "STRETCH" TRUST

MAY PEACE BE WITH YOU THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

First of all, it is my pleasure to announce the grand reopening of the Kiniry Law Firm, PLLC. Second, have a Merry Christmas (or other holiday) and, all things considered, I could not be more sincere in wishing all of you a Happy New Year!

THE GIFT OF PLANNING

What a JOY it has been writing on the topic of Elder Law in The Bow Times since April 2015. Many of your fellow Bow residents read some (perhaps all) of the articles, and have learned about the many good reasons to establish a relationship with an Elder Law Attorney and, as a result, now have a well-crafted estate plan in place. If you are over fifty years of age, and have not taken the opportunity to read the collection of articles, I want to encourage you to do so.

A (NOT SO) WONDERFUL LIFE

If you are approaching retirement age, reality dictates you will eventually experience a decline in both physical and mental health. Another fact is that the best opportunity to plan to protect your family from future negative consequences is while you are cognitively healthy. As the last year has brought to the forefront of our minds, there are no guarantees of great health and longevity. We all know this to be true, and if you have not taken appropriate action, your family may very well place you on the **Naughty List** and result in the receipt of a **lump of coal** in your **stocking**.

A GIFT FOR ALL OCCASIONS

We are now in the month of December, the time of year when many of us are feeling the **holiday spirit** (I hope you are one of them, I love this time of year). Billions of dollars will be spent on **gifts** of all shapes and sizes for friends, children and other loved ones. Everything from teddy bears and easy bake ovens to the coolest electronics and perhaps a snowmobile or two (can't wait to snowmobile). It's in this spirit of giving I will suggest to you that creating an estate plan for the benefit of yourself, your children and other loved ones is a special **gift** indeed. A **gift that keeps on giving** and has numerous benefits (I know you can't drive it, so maybe not fun like the snowmobile).

I'm not suggesting that you run out and have an estate plan created and leave a copy under the **christmas tree** for your children to open on December 25th. That would be a GIFT your children would certainly never forget. Seriously, they would never let you forget. Rather, I'm just planting the idea that establishing an estate plan to protect your family can make for a **wonderful life** (okay, this is a sad attempt at humor).

THE (NOT SO) NAUGHTY CHECKLIST

The Peace of Mind Checklist below is intended to list 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 for you as you start to ponder your **New Year's resolutions** (you know, like getting your affairs in good order). come. What is the best way to do this?

PEACE OF MIND CHECKLIST

Please cut out this list and check
the 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. What kind of pre-planning can we do in to best practice financial self-defense?
- My child (grandchild) is disabled. How can I protect his or her future? Is it true I can give all my money to a disabled person and have my long-term care cost paid?
- My spouse and I have a cherished family property that we would like to leave for our children and grandchildren to enjoy for years to come. What is the best way to do this?
- How can I set things up so my kids' inheritance will be protected if they get divorced or have creditor issues?
- My parents are aging. What should I know to help them to remain independent, protect their assets and be able to assist them when they need it?
- What are the benefits of a living trust and aren't they just for the wealthy?
- 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, who will have the legal authority to make them for me? How can I be sure my wishes will be carried out?
- How can I be sure my money and property end up with my chosen beneficiaries when I'm gone?
- My parent just passed away. What are the legal steps I need to follow in order to settle his/her estate?
- I worked hard to build up a significant amount in my retirement accounts, how can I assure my young and/or immature beneficiaries will be tax smart and not just pay all the tax and spend, spend, spend?
- Is it true that my children can avoid the probate court when I die? What is the advantage of doing so?

Many of our clients came to us with the same questions. Contact us for estate and elder law planning solutions that are tailored to your specific needs.

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

Merry Christmas!

