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9 Van Ger Drive, Bow, NH 03304 Tel: (888) 471-2903
 Email: Ben@KiniryLawFirm.com www.kiniryfirm.com



AN INSIDE LOOK: What I Have Learned After One Year of Working With Attorney Kiniry!

Hi Everyone! In honor of my one year anniversary working with the Kiniry Law Firm, PLLC, Ben asked me to write this September article to share with you some of the Key things I have learned.

So here goes!

1. It's never too early to put your affairs (and estate plan) in order/place.
2. Things change over time – in both your life and with the law - so you need to revisit that plan periodically and make updates and adjustments.
3. A Last Will & Testament is good, but not best. With a Will you will end up in Probate Court spending far more time and money than you would on an Estate Plan with a Trust.
4. There is a big difference between a Revocable Trust and an Irrevocable Trust. They both have their place in the plan in certain situations. An Elder Law Attorney can educate you on if, and when, to use either.
5. I said “An Elder Law Attorney” should help. Not just any attorney: one who *specializes in estate planning and the other areas covered by Elder Law*. You go to the dermatologist to have your skin looked at, not the general practitioner.
6. Everyone says they want to stay out of a nursing home and “not let the State and the Nursing Home take all of the money.” The only way to do that is with a seasoned Elder Law Attorney who knows about Medicaid laws and planning and who can do this correctly.

7. There is a whole other set of laws and regulations for Special Needs Trusts, IRA Trusts, Veterans Benefits and Probate, etc. Each area is its own specialty and requires someone who has expertise in each practice area.
8. Some people end up with cognitive issues (from Schizophrenia, Downs Syndrome, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and all the way to Alzheimer's and Dementia) that require that someone else take the reins.
9. Sometimes in the aforementioned situations there are Guardians and sometimes people even need to be committed for the safety of themselves and others. This is very sad, but real. Again, someone who knows what to do, when and why is a Godsend to someone faced with the extremely difficult situation.
10. Probate is long, not fun, and full of specific deadlines and tasks. Having a Trust that is correctly funded is the key to avoiding that year of torture and massive expense.

The long and short of it is, you need to talk to Ben. I will set you up with the forms to complete and set an appointment for a consultation with him for you. This is not something you want to ignore or avoid. As Benjamin Franklin said “in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes.” That first one is coming and we just never know when. If you truly love your loved ones you should at the very least speak with Ben.

And yes, this was a different article than I usually write. Yes, I have interesting stories to go with all of the bullet points above! You didn't know brevity was in my persona, did you?!

Let's talk soon!

Donna – For Kiniry Law Firm, PLLC



**The information provided in this article
does not constitute legal advice.**

AUDLEY DIVIDE CONCERNS & LIVE STREAM BROUGHT TO SELECT BOARD



At the Selectmen's meeting of August 16 John Green addressed Audley divide concerns. Chair Marshall indicated that the police department had increased patrols in the area and issued citations to persons acting inappropriately. The Town Manager will check with the Police Department on what they could do about posting signage in the right-of-way and addressing the issues occurring. However, it is up to the property owners to address if they want to keep people off their property.

John Green, 8 Audley Drive, said he was finding used needles and other detritus in the area that his young children should not have to deal with when they go out to play. He also provided pictures demonstrating his comments. He doesn't have a problem with the people enjoying the view. However, others are using the area as an informal park at all hours of the day and night, urinating in public, exposing themselves to his children and participating in illicit activities. He is constantly picking up trash left in the area and the amount of traffic is a problem. The area wasn't intended as a park and is an unlicensed use which is hindering his use of his own property. The Selectboard told him that earlier they had asked the Town Manager to look further into the situation with the Police Department.

Live Streaming - Trial Period Results and Recommendations Chair Marshall summarized the results and recommendations of the live streaming trial

period. Town Manager Stack stated that Staff had become used to setting up to live stream meetings. Chair Marshall stated the Board had received a petition with 116 signatures supporting the continuation of live streaming, recording, and posting of the videos online. The petition was read into the record. Susan Marcotte-Jenkins, 11 Hope Lane, commented about the importance of transparency, public participation in town government and the rights of its citizens. The Chair thanked the petitioners for bringing this to the Board's attention.

The Chair asked for further comments. Lorna Landry, 35 Bow Center Road, had been listening to the meeting via ZOOM prior to attending the meeting. She stated the audio was better on ZOOM than it was here at the meeting and urged the Board to approve the petition. The Chair called for comments from the Board. Selectwoman Brennan stated she felt the Board had a responsibility to their community to provide these recordings to the community and it is in the best interests of the community for them to know what is going on. She thanked the petitioners and those who have spoken for participating in Town matters.

Selectman Wayne moved the Selectboard continue to live stream its public meetings. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Brennan. The Chair called for a vote. Motion carries 4-1.