



The Polner Abrahams REPORT

Insights for Intelligent Estate, Special Needs & Elder Law Planning

NEW ADDRESS as of MAY 1, 2010
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Courtesy of The Law Office of Beth Polner Abrahams

Volume 6 Issue 2

Ready, Set, Go: Get Organized!

ONE FAMILY'S ELDER LAW STORY – MINE

A few days after my mother, Louise, celebrated her 80th birthday, she landed in the hospital and required unexpected surgery. This was a surprise to everyone and found us all unprepared. I am pleased to report that my Mom has recovered fully and now I would like to share a brief story.

Mom needed a pre-surgical procedure that required anesthesia. Upon awakening and seeing my father and me standing by her bedside, she managed to whisper, "Health care proxy."

"Why do you need your health care proxy, Mom?" I asked, and looked at the nurse, who shook her head, not comprehending.

Then I realized that in my rush to the hospital as her concerned daughter, I hadn't thought to bring Mom's original health care proxy with me, nor did I have a scanned copy on-hand. I realized also that, as her elder law attorney, I should have brought that document to the hospital for her. The bottom line: I had taught my Mom well about being prepared for all health-related emergencies.

To my readers:

My office's core service for clients includes scanning and preserving your planning documents, including your health care proxy. If you, your doctor, or a hospital ever need the health care proxy emailed, simply telephone my office at (516) 741-9175 or email me at Info@BPAbrahamsLaw.com.

CHANGE IS COMING – CHANGE IS HERE!

- Our websites at www.bpaElderLaw.com and www.SNTLaw.com have been redesigned with a new look and navigation for your convenience
- If your family has special needs challenges, visit <http://BethsBookshelf.wordpress.com> for our monthly review of helpful books
- Our general law blog has moved to <http://bpaLegalUpdateBlog.wordpress.com> and can still be reached by a link on our websites: www.bpaElderLaw.com and www.SNTLaw.com

HOW DO YOU GET ORGANIZED?

In my Winter 2010 newsletter, 'When Elder Law Comes Home' (download at www.bpaElderLaw.com), I discussed ways to organize your personal and estate planning information, as well as the importance of family discussions about your estate.

Here are lists of vital life data – i.e., whom to notify when you die, your burial wishes and religious preferences, locations of important documents, and related matters – to have ready in one place for your family and others who need to know.

Let's go green together! View this newsletter online. To sign-up for e-newsletter alerts, send an email to Info@BPAbrahamsLaw.com with the subject line: "Yes: e-Newsletter".

If you do not sign-up, you will still receive the paper version of this newsletter.

How To Get Organized ... *Continued*

Part I – Your Life Data

- Name
- Address / legal residence
- Telephone number(s) – land line, mobile phone
- Social security number (SSN)
- Birthplace and date of birth
- Name of spouse and all living next of kin:
 - Children
 - Siblings
 - Parents
- Your family tree / heirs: name, contact info, SSN
 - Parents: date of birth / date of death
 - Mother's maiden name
 - Other children of your parents (your siblings)
 - Children
 - Grandchildren
- If you are a veteran:
 - VA claim number
 - Serial number
 - Discharge date and place

Part II – Contacts Upon Your Death

Name, title, company, phone, email for your:

- Religious advisor
- Funeral home director and those handling other arrangements (i.e., bequest to medical science)
- Family attorney
- Family accountant / tax advisor
- Executor of your will
- Trustee of your trust
- Health and life insurance agent and company
- Close friends and relatives to be notified

And don't forget this important information:

- Passwords for computer access and online accounts
- Location of address book with other important names and contact information.

Imagine how grateful your loved ones will be to know you gathered all of this information to help them through the difficult time of your passing. Being organized is thoughtful, loving and also beneficial to your own peace of mind. *Call my office if we can help you further.*

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE: EBLAST ALERT FOR NEW BLOG ARTICLES

Thank you to everyone who signed up for my eBlast alert for my newsletter and blog. If you know someone who would benefit from this information, please forward the eBlast to their email address.

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Dedicated to providing quality, caring and personalized legal representation. Handling all aspects of estate and tax planning, elder law and special needs planning, and representation of incapacitated and disabled persons in guardianship proceedings.