

A Note From Peter...

Happy November! I hope you all are gearing up for a great Thanksgiving holiday in a few weeks!

I wanted to share with you some exciting news that has happened to me recently. I was contacted by a reporter from the Intelligencer asking to interview me about estate planning and how you can keep your documents safe and accessible. The article appeared on the front page of the Business section of the Monday, October 26th, 2009 issue, you will find the article "A safe place to store documents" which contains just a bit of the information I shared.

It was an interesting concept, storage of documents, to keep them accessible if they are ever needed. Anyone in our LifePlan™ program might recognize this concept. We use DocuBank® to store your healthcare directives so they are always accessible!

The reporter wanted my opinion on such a service for other estate planning documents like your Will/Trust.

Although I don't really believe our clients need this additional service, as we keep their documents on our hard drive and off site, but it is interesting that someone had a need for this service and developed a whole company around one small part of what we do for all our clients

If you are interested in reading the article, you can locate it on the web by going to The Intelligencer's website (www.phillyburbs.com) and clicking on the link for The Intelligencer and searching their archives for the October 26th, 2009 issue. This was a small but great media success story for HighPoint Law Offices!

If you happen to be a business owner and have received any public recognition like this, PLEASE share it with us! We'd love to hear your stories!

-Peter J. Gilbert



FEATURE ARTICLE

*The following is a publication from the **Bucks and Montgomery Emergency Preparedness Bulletin** about the H1N1 (Swine flu). Because the Fall/Winter seasons are known for increase in illness, all of us at HighPoint Law Offices decided it was important to provide you with the most up-to-date information on this flu.*

WHAT IS H1N1 (SWINE FLU)?

H1N1 (Swine Flu) is a new strain of influenza, and is spread from person to person by coughing, sneezing, or nasal secretions. As we saw last Spring, most people have little or no immunity against this new type of flu. Like the seasonal flu, H1N1 may be worse for those with chronic medical conditions. However, most people recover without requiring medical treatment and experience typical "flu-like" symptoms. H1N1 will typically run its course within 4-7 days.

- Individuals may be infectious as early as the day before they show symptoms and are most likely to spread the flu to others when they are feverish
- Those who are sick should stay home from school or work until 24 hours after fever has resolved
- Patients should always consult with their healthcare provider, especially those with suppressed immune systems and chronic medical conditions if their flu symptoms do not improve
- Currently, H1N1 is a Stage 6: Pandemic. "Pandemic" refers to the spread of H1N1, not the severity of the illness

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE?

MAKE A PLAN

- If you are sick, and cannot leave your house, it will be important to have extra supplies on hand
- Think about your daily activities: what are the sick policies at home, and your child's school?

MAKE A KIT

- Keep supplies in your home: food, water, non-prescription drugs and other health supplies

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

STAY INFORMED

H1N1 AND VACCINE

HOW CAN WE PREVENT AND TREAT H1N1?

- Just like the seasonal flu: get your flu shot, rest, and drink plenty of liquids
- Practice good hygiene: wash your hands, cover your cough, stay at home if you are sick
- There are anti-viral medications that can treat the symptoms of H1N1, but will be used to treat those who are at higher risk for complications from H1N1

WHEN WILL THE H1N1 VACCINE BE AVAILABLE?

- The H1N1 vaccine is now in production, and will be available in the early Winter season
- The H1N1 vaccine does NOT replace seasonal flu vaccine: you are encouraged to get BOTH the seasonal flu vaccine, and the H1N1 vaccine
- The seasonal vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine may be given on the same day
- All of the H1N1 vaccine doses may not be ready at the same time, so certain groups (who are at higher risk for complications) will be the first in line. These include
 - Pregnant women
 - People who live with or care for children under 6 months of age
 - Healthcare and emergency services personnel
 - Persons between 6 months of age and 24 years of age
 - Persons 24-64 years of age with certain chronic medical conditions

WHERE CAN I GET THE H1N1 VACCINE?

- H1N1 vaccine will be available in a combination of settings, including healthcare provider offices, schools, clinics set up by local health departments and other settings, such as pharmacies and workplaces
- As vaccine becomes available, more information will be posted on websites:

•www.H1N1inPA.com

•www.health.montcopa.org

•www.buckscounty.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

***Tuesday, November 3rd at 7 pm and Wednesday, November 18th at 10:30 am,** HighPoint Law Offices will be hosting a free "Estate Planning Essentials" workshop for clients and non-clients at our office in Chalfont, PA. This workshop runs roughly 2 hours and will focus on the importance of Estate Planning and how being prepared now will protect you and your loved ones in the future. Seating will be limited so please call 215-997-9773 to reserve your seat today.

CONTACT US!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PETER J. GILBERT AND HIGHPOINT LAW OFFICES, PLEASE

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