

A Note From Peter...

Greetings!

I can't believe it's August already... this year has flown by! So many exciting things have happened thus far and hopefully more will come! The latest piece of news at HighPoint Law Offices is the addition of a new attorney, Jaime L. Weinstein. Jaime is a mother of two young girls, as well as a talented attorney who will be working with our clients in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. A native to Bucks County, Jaime is licensed not only in Pennsylvania but in New Jersey as well. We look forward to working with her more closely and introducing her to all of our valued clients and affiliates at our upcoming Annual Client Meetings and HighPoint Institute events.



-Peter J. Gilbert

FEATURE ARTICLE

Wealth Secret: Steve McNair-How Another Rich Celebrity Failed His Family and What YOU Can Learn From It

By: Alexis Martin Neely

Every day someone dies without a Will and without naming guardians for his or her kids. It's something overlooked by millions of people each year because we think "it won't happen to me" or "I trust my family to sort things out."

And while situations like this are tragic on every level, it sometimes takes a high profile estate battle plastered all over the news to really wake us up to the necessity of preparing for death or incapacity.

And sadly this [summer], TWO high profile celebrities died without the necessary documents in place to thoroughly ensure the well-being and care of their kids.

I'm sure Steve McNair never imagined in a million years that anything would happen to him - like most [people], he probably felt invincible. Obviously, he wasn't. And he died without a Will. His widow Mechelle was appointed administrator of his estate and she named her two sons as the only heirs.

So what's the problem with that?

Well, McNair had two children from a previous marriage that were not mentioned by his wife when she went to court.

And while McNair had been paying \$500 a month in child support for at least one of the older boys, the current Mrs. McNair doesn't believe they are his children in the first place and appears to be attempting to exclude them from receiving anything under their father's estate.

Now, it'll all be worked out through the probate process, sure. And if the children are his children, they will be entitled to a portion of his estate. But, at what cost? And what would it have cost him to make things easy for his family?

So here is the lesson you must take away from this situation parents-if you have children from a previous relationship (and even if you don't!), you must document IN WRITING how you want your children to be provided for after you are gone.

There is no reason to put your family through the pain and drama of a family fight after the tragedy of a death or serious accident. While it's true you won't be here, the people you love most will be and they'll be dealing with your failure to provide for them.

Is that really the legacy you want to leave behind?

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Wednesday, **September 2nd** at 10:30am and Wednesday, **September 9th** at 7pm, 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.

Get ready for HighPoint Law Office's Annual Client Meeting! We hope you can make one of the two dates below!

*Thursday, September 10th from 6pm to 8pm, HighPoint Law Offices will be hosting our Annual Client Meeting at the Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel in Bethlehem. We encourage all of our clients to attend to meet the new additions to the team and hear the latest news from HighPoint Law Offices! Light fare will be served. Please RSVP by September 1st, 2009 by calling 215-997-9773 or email info@highpointlawoffices.com. The Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel is located at 200-300 Gateway Drive in Bethlehem, PA.

*Wednesday, September 30th from 6pm to 8pm, HighPoint Law Offices will be hosting our Annual Client Meeting at The Talking Teacup in Chalfont, PA. We encourage all of our clients to attend to meet the new additions to the team and hear the latest news from HighPoint Law Offices. Light fare (and tea!) will be served. Please RSVP by September 16th by calling 215-997-9773 or email info@highpointlawoffices.com. The Talking Teacup is located at 301 W. Butler Ave in Chalfont, PA. Entrance to the parking lot is on Skyline Drive.

CONTACT US!

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

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