

A Note From Peter...

Greetings!

All of us at HighPoint Law Offices are getting very excited for the upcoming Annual Client Meetings this month! As a preview to the main event, I have created a small outline of the topics being covered during each meeting. Let us know if there is anything additional that you would like to hear about during the Annual Client Meetings!

At the Annual Client Meeting in the Lehigh Valley (9/10) and Chalfont (9/30), you will 1) Meet our new attorneys, 2) Be introduced to our GAP program and understand its importance, 3) Hear of new DocuBank developments, 4) Learn how to get “unstuck” in difficult times, 5) Be informed of the Estate Tax Outlook for 2010 and beyond, 6) Get an update on client update meetings, and 7) Participate in a Legacy Building exercise.

We hope you are looking forward to this event as much as we are! Until then, have a happy and safe Labor Day Weekend!

-Peter J. Gilbert



FEATURE ARTICLE

Heard About The Sandwich Generation? by Victor Medina

A recent poll puts the number at 20 million. It's those people, mostly mothers, in the “Sandwich Generation” - a term given to adults caring for their aging parents while still supporting children of their own. It was the subject of a documentary by a San Francisco filmmaker of her personal journey moving back to Montclair, NJ to care for her 80 year old father who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease, uprooting her business, her husband, and her two children in the process. You can watch some of the documentary on the AARP's website (www.aarp.com).

For adults thrust into the role of caring for their parents, the biggest struggle often comes from trying to keep their dual responsibilities segregated. They try to ensure that the needs of the aging parent don't impact what's going on in their children's lives. As an example, the adult children feel like they have to choose between making sure that Mom takes a walk for exercise and attending a child's piano recital. No matter what the adult parent chooses, he or she often feels like a failure at everything.

What you need to realize is that this process is not something that you can keep separated in your life. You'll do your family a great service by viewing it as an experience to be shared with everyone in the family, and maybe even with some members of the outside community.

If you find yourself in this triple-decker-club “sandwich generation” situation (or if you're in it now), here are 3 practical tips I can offer:

1) Learn The Financial Facts. You may have avoided talking with your parents about finances in the past. Whether you were taught that those things are private or “it just never came up,” now is not the time for

surprises. You need to know how your parents are doing financially and whether they've made any provisions in case they become ill or suffer a long-term disability.

2) Get The Estate In Order. At this stage of your parent's life it's important to make sure that your parent's legal house is in order. My client's parents enjoy a healthy discount on their estate planning. [All of HighPoint Law Offices LifePlan™ clients receive a family discount!] But, no matter where you get it done, your parents absolutely need to have a financial power of attorney, advance health care directive (a health care power of attorney plus a living will), and a simple will. It may not be the best estate plan for your parents. It might not be proper Medicaid planning. However, it is the bare minimum you will need to help care for your parents.

3) Insure Against the Future. Now is the time to examine long-term-care insurance or assess whether savings will cover an extended nursing home stay, assisted-living facility costs or extended home-care services. You may be tempted to begin to liquidate your holdings or stop saving for your own benefit to help pay for the cost of your parent's care. Big mistake. Remember that there aren't nearly the same kind of government programs or lending scenarios that will help you pay for your kids, or their college or fund your retirement, as there are to help support aging parents. It's vital that you continue to save for your retirement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*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

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US BY:

WEBSITE: WWW.HIGHPOINTLAWOFFICES.COM

PHONE: 215-997-9773

FAX: 215-893-4726

STOP BY: 200 HIGHPOINT DR, SUITE 209 - CHALFONT, PA 18914

EMAIL: INFO@HIGHPOINTLAWOFFICES.COM