



IT'S THE LAW!

Adam S. Gumson, Attorney at Law

FAMILY LAW

Divorce/Paternity • Child Support & Timesharing • Alimony • Property Distribution • Modifications

ESTATE PLANNING

Wills • Trusts • Powers of Attorney • Health Care Surrogates • Living Wills • Probate Estates

JUPITERLAWCENTER was founded in 1988 and, over the years, has handled a wide variety of legal matters, including Family Law, Estate Planning, Real Estate, Personal Injury, Contracts, Corporations, Immigration Litigation and Criminal Law. In 2008, the firm relocated from Chasewood Plaza to Jupiter Creek Professional Center (behind Water's Edge Dermatology) and shifted its focus to handling primarily Family Law and Estate Planning matters. One focus that has not changed, however, is the firm's commitment to being accessible and giving solid, practical legal advice with a personal touch.

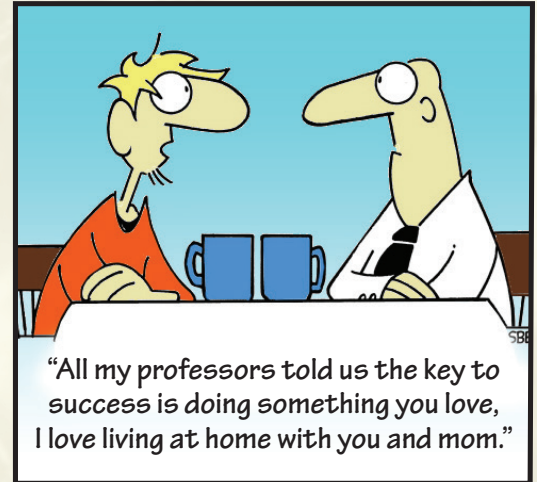


If you have a child going to or in college, make sure you have your child sign a "Consent" form at the Registrar's office so that you can communicate with the college about your child, see your child's grades, or obtain school-related financial information. Without the signed Consent form on file, the school will most likely deny you access (even if you are calling to find out how much you owe on tuition).



WHY YOUR COLLEGE-AGED CHILD SHOULD SEE A LAWYER

This time of year, families have finished celebrating their child's High School graduation and are preparing to send their child to college or into the military or workforce. Most of these kids are already 18 years old. Many parents are not aware that in Florida, the age of majority is 18. This means that your child is considered an adult, even if you pay for all of his/her daily living expenses and make every decision for him/her. This also means that parents lose all rights to the access of information about their child and the right or authority to make financial or medical decisions for him/her. Even if these children are still dependents on their parents' Tax Returns, it makes no difference: if they are 18, they're legally independent and their privacy is protected by law. How would you feel if your child was in an accident and the hospital would not tell you anything and you could not obtain records or information without a Court Order?



I have had numerous parents call me on Monday morning, after driving for hours and hours over the weekend to their child's college when an accident happened and they were unable to find out anything over the phone. The good news is that this type of problem can be avoided by having a "Durable Power of Attorney" ("DPA") and "Health Care Surrogate" ("HCS") in place. The DPA appoints a parent to act as Attorney-in-Fact ("AIF") or agent for the child. The AIF is entitled to make financial decisions, sign documents for, and act on the behalf of the child. The HCS appoints a parent to act as AIF on the child's behalf as to any medical matters (including communicating with health care providers, accessing records and applying for benefits). The DPA and HCS are not expensive and will save parents hours of time (and perhaps avoid an expensive Guardianship proceeding).

Protect your child (and your peace of mind!) by making sure that your child has some simple Estate Planning documents in place when he/she turns 18 – it will save you time, money and aggravation. Meanwhile, best wishes for a safe and happy Summer!

Attorney Adam S. Gumson of **JUPITER LAW CENTER** graduated from Duke University and University of Florida College of Law (with Honors). In addition to preparing and reviewing Contracts, he primarily handles matters involving Family Law (including Divorce, Paternity, Alimony, Child Support and Timesharing, Property Distribution and Modifications), Estate Planning (including Wills, Trusts, Durable Powers of Attorney, Health Care Surrogates and Living Wills) and Probate Estates. He is married and resides in Jupiter with his wife and three children.