



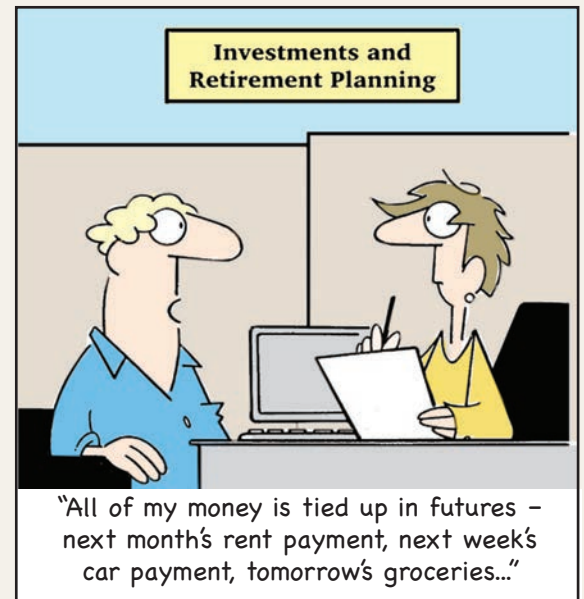
Providing Peace of Mind by Solving Problems with Integrity & Compassion in the following areas:

ESTATE & BUSINESS PLANNING • FAMILY LAW • REAL ESTATE

IT'S THE LAW!

ESTATE PLANNING IS MISLEADING

What's That you Say? Well, the phrase "Estate Planning" can be misleading. That's because many people think that only people like the Rockefellers or the Kennedys have "an Estate", with the implication being that only they should complete such planning. But, the truth is that any person who dies with an asset titled in his/her name has "an Estate". Yes, those with substantial assets have larger Estates – but that doesn't mean that those who are not filthy rich should avoid planning to protect their loved ones. Even with a small nest egg and a modest home, you want to make sure those assets pass to the people *you* choose, right? But what if you have no assets of any kind? You can still benefit from a *Will*. Your *Will* can



be used to protect what is even more valuable than money... your family. Your *Will*, for example, might dictate who should become the Guardian of your minor children if you pass away before they are emancipated. A *Will*, can also be used for instructions as to what you would like done with your body after your death – burial, cremation, funeral, etc. A *Will*, can detail certain preferences and designate a *Personal Representative* to be in charge of carrying them out so that your loved ones aren't left guessing about what your final wishes were or who you wanted to oversee them being fulfilled. Absent a *Will*, no one is left in charge (legally speaking) to carry out those wishes.

If I Have a Trust, I Don't Need a Will, While *Trusts* cover a lot of territory (and will be addressed in future Newsletters), you still need a *Pour-Over Will* to cover those assets not already transferred into the *Trust*. If you don't create a *Pour-Over Will*, those assets remaining in your name will still have to go through the Probate process and the person appointed to handle that proceeding as *Personal Representative* might not be the person you wanted to do so. Thus, any assets not titled in the *Trust* "slip through the cracks", requiring Probate – and your *Pour-Over Will* shall govern that situation.

How Often Should Estate Planning Be Updated?



If you have had the same spouse for decades and your adult children are stable, you may feel you don't need to change any of your documents. You could be right. However, we see many clients encounter changes

around them as they age. So whether properties have been bought/sold, designees are no longer the best choice or other events have happened, make sure everything is still set up properly. Review your documents every few years – and, if you aren't sure what to look for - call us. We'll review for you – even if we didn't draft the originals.

Our Office



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ESTATE & BUSINESS PLANNING

Wills & Trusts • Powers of Attorney • Health Care Surrogates • Living Wills • Probate Estates • Succession Planning • Contracts & Purchase/Sale Agreements

FAMILY LAW

Divorce/Paternity • Child Support & Timesharing • Alimony • Property Distribution • Modifications • Collaborative Law • Pre/Post Nuptial Agreements

REAL ESTATE

Community Association Law • Residential & Commercial Transactions • Deeds • Closings



Attorney Adam S. Gumson of **JUPITER LAW CENTER** graduated from *Duke University (1988)* and the *University of Florida College of Law (1991 with Honors)*. In addition to preparing and reviewing Contracts, he primarily handles matters involving *Estate and Business Planning (including Wills, Trusts, Durable Powers of Attorney, Health Care Surrogates, Living Wills, Succession Planning, Contracts & Purchase/Sale Agreements), Probate Estates, Family Law (Divorce, Custody, Alimony, Timesharing, Same-Sex relationships, Pre/Postnuptial Agreements, Modification actions and Collaborative Law) and Real Estate (Community Association, Residential/ Commercial Transactions, Deeds, Closings)*. He is married and resides in Jupiter with his wife and three children.

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