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IT'S THE LAW!

DID YOU KNOW THAT, IN FLORIDA...

COMMON-LAW MARRIAGE refers to those couples who have lived together for a long-time but who never formally obtained a Marriage License. No Common-Law Marriage entered into after January 1, 1968 is valid. But, if the couple were recognized as having been common law married in one of the few states that still recognize a common law marriage, then it is possible that Florida would recognize such a marriage. Currently, 10 states and the District of Columbia legally recognize Common Law Marriage.

If you die without a **WILL**, your Estate will be distributed in accordance with the state's **INTESTACY** laws, which mandate distribution of assets to blood relatives (or their spouses). For example, the Intestacy statute designates a hierarchy of beneficiaries starting with the spouse, children, parents, siblings, etc. So, if it is your wish that your assets go to someone other than those on this list (like a friend or charity), it is especially important that you draft a Will.

REAL ESTATE transactions are governed by Contract law and must be in writing to protect Sellers from claims by an unscrupulous Buyer who claims that the Seller "*verbally*" promised to sell the property.

JUPITER LAW CENTER is a private neighborhood law firm located in the RiverPlace Professional Center, 1003 W. Indiantown Road, Suite 210, Jupiter, FL. (561) 744 - 4600, jupiterlawcenter.com. The firm provides peace of mind by solving problems with integrity and compassion in the areas of Estate 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 & Time Sharing, Alimony, Property Distribution, Modifications, Collaborative Law, Pre/Post Nuptial Agreements*) and Real Estate (*Community Association Law, Residential & Commercial Transactions, Deeds, Closings*).