

Byrd & Byrd, LLC

July 2014



Dear Jacqueline D.,

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Byrd & Byrd email newsletter! We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and find helpful information along with the latest news from [Byrd & Byrd](#). Happy Reading!

Cautionary Tales of Joint Account Ownership

by Jessica Estes

For me, the most important aspect of estate planning is how one's assets are titled and understanding the consequences of such titling. Oftentimes, people, mostly for convenience purposes, will add their child, sibling, or another individual on their account as a joint owner. Although this seems like a reasonable and harmless thing to do, it can have unintended consequences that could be detrimental to your estate plan or well-being.

Not only will the account pass to the joint owner upon your death, but the joint owner has the legal right to 100% of that money so they can spend your money on whatever they desire. Or worse yet, because they can access that money, it could be subject to their creditors, lawsuits, bankruptcy or divorce.

Let's take it one step further. If dad and son own a joint account, and son is in an auto accident and can no longer manage his finances, son's power of attorney now has access to dad's account. And, most likely, son's power of attorney is his wife, or dad's daughter-in-law.

Instead of having a joint owner, name a Power of Attorney on the account. The Power of Attorney ensures that your agent may access the account only for your benefit, not theirs.

Baby Boom

April and May were quite busy months for the staff at Byrd & Byrd. We welcomed four newborn babies to the Byrd & Byrd family - that's right, 4 babies in 4 weeks!!

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Byrd & Byrd Voted Best Attorney in Bowie 4 Years in a Row!



Tell Us What You Think

What do you think would be a great new name for the Senior Moments column that is published



On April 6th, Peyton Blackford was born to Bryce & Kristen Blackford, with older brother, Dawson, excited to have a little brother.

weekly in the Bowie Blade-News? Send in your suggestions or opinions to [this email](#) or telephone legal assistant, Bryce Blackford, at 301-464-7448 Ext. 111.



On April 13th, twin boys, Max and Grant Winger, were born to Joshua & Lindsay Winger, with older brother, Luke, excited to see how drastically his world would forever be changed.

In two weeks, we will count the names and put the two with the highest votes up for a final decision by readers. If you don't want the name changed, feel free to tell us that, too. Thanks a lot!

YouTube

Video of the Month

On May 2nd, Brian & Stacey Ritter welcomed their daughter, Alexa Ritter, to their home - their very first child.

Here at Byrd & Byrd, we want to make the monthly newsletter enjoyable to read, attractive to view, and interactive for our readers. What better way to accomplish that than to post our favorite YouTube video each month.



Check out the video by clicking the following link.

[YouTube Video of the Month](#)

Testimonials

"From the very beginning, you were so kind in guiding me with regard to my [situation]. I could not have done it without your help"

-L.S.
Glen Burnie, MD

Takeaway Thursdays

Byrd & Byrd is very excited to announce a new, upcoming and recurring monthly event. On the third Thursday of each month from 5:30-7pm at our Prince Frederick office located at 30 Industry Lane, Attorney Brian Ritter will conduct a casual and informative workshop on the basics of estate planning. These workshops are FREE and can help explain the in-and-outs of Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Estate Planning, and Probate.

We are calling these workshops "Takeaway Thursdays" because we hope you takeaway valuable information on estate planning. Light refreshments will be provided. Takeaway Thursdays are currently scheduled for August 21st and September 18th. Please RSVP as space is limited. RSVP to bblackford@byrdandbyrd.com or by calling 301-464-7448.

"We were nervous to talk about our estate planning matters, but [Byrd & Byrd] lessened the stress of a very overwhelming situation. [Byrd and Byrd] are great attorneys and treated us like dear friends."

Jackie's Senior Moments Column

-L.J.
Bowie, MD

To read Jackie's Senior Moments Column, please check out the [Byrd & Byrd blog](#).

Senior Moments Publications

UPCOMING EVENTS

Medicaid Mondays
August 11th, 2014
September 8th, 2014
Byrd & Byrd Office in Bowie, MD
5:30pm - 7pm

RSVP for one of these events by emailing bblackford@byrdandbyrd.com or by calling 301-464-7448.

Takeaway Thursdays
August 21st, 2014
September 18th, 2014
Byrd & Byrd Office in Prince Frederick, MD
5:30pm - 7pm

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Jackie Byrd has published two books in recent years. *Senior Moments* and *Senior Moments 2*; both comprehensive and clearly written books for "Seniors and those who love them". They are based on weekly "Senior Moments" columns originally written for publication in the Bowie Blade-News of Bowie, Maryland and the Crofton News-Crier of Crofton, Maryland.

**Click Below to
Purchase Your Copy
Today**
[Senior Moments 2](#)

YouTube Video of the Month

Here at Byrd & Byrd, we want to make the monthly newsletter enjoyable to read, attractive to view, and interactive for our readers. What better way to accomplish that than to post our favorite YouTube video each month.

This month's YouTube Video comes from our friend, Meddling Maude. She has a YouTube Series called "Maude's Two-Minute Meddlings". It is a weekly video series that provides valuable tips and information to help seniors - and the people who love and care for them - lead safer and healthier lives. The videos star the animated character of Maude, who likes to dole out advice and meddle in people's lives - but always for their benefit.

This month's tip is about Laughter and the benefits from chuckling and giggling. Check it out:



Laugh Yourself Healthy

If you are interested in having an Attorney from Byrd & Byrd speak to your organization, or at a special event, please contact us at 301-464-7448.

About Our Firm

The Law Firm of Byrd & Byrd, LLC provides services in Elder Law and Construction Law, a rare combination that reflects the passion and life experience of its partners. The firm is also a general practice firm that manages issues of family law, personal injury, wrongful death and medical malpractice.

Known for building strong long-term relationships with our clients, the firm's attorneys excel at making complicated legal issues easier to understand. Whether assisting a contractor, subcontractor, builder or property owner with contract or construction litigation, or helping an elderly client find appropriate housing, apply for Medicaid eligibility, or execute powers of attorney, the firm offers wise and experienced counsel and guidance.

Our Mission Statement

Byrd & Byrd, LLC is dedicated to protecting and serving senior citizens and those who love them. Our key objective is to give our clients the gift of information, so that with their knowledge, they can achieve all the benefits that the law guarantees. We will always perform our mission in strict accordance to the law and the highest possible moral and ethical standards

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