GETTING YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER

by Sheila N. Fell, Esq.

When it comes to end-of-life decisions, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed, intimidated, or avoidant. Who wants to think about these things? What kinds of choices will you have to make? Where do you even start?

Making choices today helps your family and friends to respect your wishes and mourn in peace. We urge you take some time to consider these questions prior to speaking with an attorney:

- Who do I trust to handle my financial and medical affairs if I don’t have the capacity to do so myself, or if I pass away?
- What possessions or assets are important to me? Who should they go to? Should I share them now to avoid a lengthy and expensive probate process?
- What will happen if my spouse or children pass away before me? Who will handle my affairs or receive my possessions?
- How do I feel about staying on life support if I become permanently unconscious? Do I want to make those decisions, or should I leave them up to a family member or a doctor?
- Do I want to be an organ donor? If so, do I want to limit donation for certain purposes?
- Do I want to be buried or cremated? Do I have a preferred cemetery, funeral home, or religious officiant? Am I able to prepay for my arrangements?
Will vs Living Will

by Natalie L. Thomas, Esq. Director

While these two words seem very similar they mean very different things.

- A will expresses your final wishes and preferences after you have died. It can vary from very simple to highly complex. Sometimes it’s called a Last Will & Testament.
- A living will is focused on health care decisions made for you while you are still alive, such as the refusal of or desire for certain medical treatments. A living will is also sometimes called an advanced directive.

Both documents are an important part of end of life planning and Scranton Road Legal Clinic can help you with both.

UNUSUAL LAWS

Strange Holiday Laws

by Natalie L. Thomas, Esq. Director

In the State of Maine, after January 14th you will be charged a fine for having your Christmas decorations still up.

In Guilford, CT, only white Christmas lights are allowed for display on the exterior of your property.

In 1647, after the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell banned all types of festivities including the celebration of Christmas. The law was lifted in 1660.

Formed in 2012, Scranton Road Legal Clinic, Directed by Natalie L. Thomas, Esq., educates and empowers our neighbors to make educated and prudent legal decisions, while providing the holistic support for the spiritual, emotional and relational problems that often accompany legal concerns. We offer brief advice via our brief advice telephone line at 216.861.5323 or via our online intake form at www.scrantonroadministries.org/legal. Contact us today to discuss your legal need.