

Law Office of Alan D. Davis Newsletter

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Welcome to the Summer newsletter of Alan D. Davis, Attorney at Law

Hello again!

While the summer is still here, I am reminded that each year dozens of young children drown each year in residential swimming pools. If you have a pool, or your kids use a friend's or relative's pool, please follow these safety tips:

- NEVER leave a child unattended for any reason—not even for a second.
- Learn CPR and make sure all caregivers also know it and can perform it.
- Don't rely on swimming lessons or flotation devices to protect your children.
- Fence in the pool and install self-closing, self-latching gates.
- Post all pools rules, such as "No Running" or "No Swimming Alone."

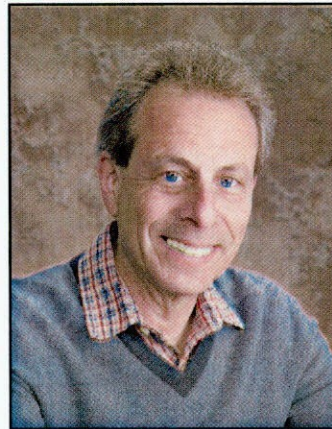
- Keep a shepherd's hook, first-aid kit, and life preserver by the pool.
- Never swim in a pool with its cover partially in place.

Each year I read about a parent who went to answer the phone, or left a sliding glass door open. Accidents happen in a blink of an eye.

While I'm at it, some of these same rules could apply to bathtubs, such as—NEVER leave a child unattended—not even for a second.

Heat can kill just as easily as water. Never leave your children or pets in an automobile, even when it's not hot outside. The interior of a car can be much hotter than the outside air.

Stay safe and have a great summer!



***Plan your estate
with me and
your attorney
won't inherit a
fortune!***

FLASH NEWS!! I just signed a big contract with Hilton Hotels. If I pay for two nights, I get the third one for free!

THESE ARE SOME OF THE AREAS THAT I CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Estate Planning—Living Trusts, Wills, Powers of Attorney, Health Care Directives
- Probate
- Real Estate, Landlord-Tenant, Deeds, Mortgages
- Civil Litigation
- Guardianship and Conservatorship
- Refinancing or selling your home

Estate Planning When A Loved One Dies

Losing a loved one is one of the most heartbreaking experiences that a person can go through in life. Then the person must make sure that the decedent's estate is settled. Here are some steps to help make the job a little easier, especially if you're

the one named as executor:

- Locate and read the will.
- If you're not the executor, contact this person.
- Will or not, look into starting the probate process.
- Make a list of your loved

one's assets and debts.

- Locate important papers, such as insurance policies, retirement plans, benefit information, etc
- Notify social security and any creditors.
- File life insurance claims

and the deceased's last taxes.

A probate attorney can help you settle your loved one's estate and represent you in court, contest a will, or help you make sense of the different estate planning tools that your loved one may have used, such as a living trust.

Wills and Ways

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*You don't have to live
on an estate to plan
one!*

A will is a document that states how a person's assets are to be distributed on that person's death. A will can also name an executor (the "manager" of the person's estate), determine how and when the beneficiaries are to receive the estate assets, and name a guardian for minor children.

There are limits, however, on what property can be given away in a will. For example, property held in joint tenancy is not subject to distribution by will. On one joint tenant's death, the property goes to the surviving owners. Bank accounts held as "pay on death" will go to the named beneficiary. Frequently, life insurance or retirement accounts have named beneficiaries, so these are also distributed

with considering the dictates of the will.

Assets distributed in a will may have to be probated, particularly real estate. For this reason, estate planning attorneys recommend having a living trust. A living trust bypasses probate, with its high costs and lengthy time factors. The property in the trust is divided up according to the trust document and not a will.

Whether a person has a will or not, California law requires assets valued at over \$100,000 to be probated. The minimum fee for this is \$4,000, not including court costs. Wills are great estate planning tools for basic estates, but the better way to go is with a living trust. Your heirs will thank you.



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We're on the web:
www.probate-expert.com

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