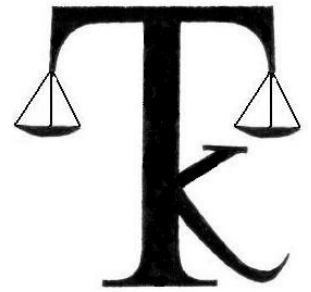


LEGALLY SPEAKING



Spring 2012

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When using Social Media, always remember:

- * Remember that everyone can see what you post
- * Don't post any possibly embarrassing or compromising photos
- * Don't talk about anyone involved in your ongoing litigation
- * Don't discuss any legal communications or strategy

Social Media and the Ongoing Family Law Case

In this digital age, we've all gotten used to sharing a lot about our lives on our social media accounts. But there are some things that should never be posted! If you're staying home "sick" from work, don't talk about your actual whereabouts; if you're going out of town, don't tell everyone when your house will be vacant; and don't post about your ongoing family law case.

There is a good chance your spouse will check your social media accounts and, now, opposing lawyers and even judges are getting in on the act. It is common place in today's family law cases for participants to learn more information about you from your social media pages. Sometimes, a person's Facebook account can provide enough information to lose their family law case.

Often a party will not need to look too far to find messages about a spouse, lawyer, or even the Judge. These messages can be easily saved, printed, and used against you. A good rule of thumb is not to post statements that you would not want your mother to read (or, at the very least, your judge).

Another issue we have run into is that individuals involved in family law cases sometimes post embarrassing photographs of themselves which can also be used in court. While a photograph from a party you went to six months ago may sound like a great image to include in your profile, that same image can be used by an opposing lawyer against you.

During your family law case it is not a good idea to post photographs of yourself that you would not want a judge to see. Obviously it will be hard to convince a judge what a wonderful parent you are - even if it's true - when there are photographs of you intoxicated, incapacitated, or in an uncompromising position available for anyone to see.

The most egregious mistake you can make is to post information you have discussed in communication with your lawyer. Often times in your family law case there is a strategy adopted from the onset which will be used throughout the case and ultimately through to trial. Clients sometimes post those private communications and even trial strategy on their social media accounts. Needless to say, this



can be devastating to your family law case as it will not only encourage your spouse to change their behavior, but the opposing lawyer will also learn your strategy and be prepared to defend against it. When information is posted for everyone to see, it may have a devastating impact on your case.

So if you're involved in a family law case, before you post about your spouse, children, opposing counsel, judges, or communications you had with your lawyer, understand that social media can easily jeopardize your case long before you ever step foot into a courtroom.

Grand Opening of Our New Office Location—May 18, 2012

Come join us on Friday, May 18, 2012 between 3:00pm and 8:00pm to celebrate the Grand Opening of our new office location in Dunnellon, Florida. Located in the heart of historic downtown Dunnellon, our new office is on South Williams Street (U.S. 41) just across the street from the Dunnellon Police Department.

During the Grand Opening, you can see our building, meet our attorneys and staff, and learn about the kind of services we are proud to offer now to Dunnellon residents. We will have entertainment, food, and fun for the

whole family and we encourage you to stop by and meet your new neighbors. We will even have a raffle for a free estate planning package (up to a \$500 value)!

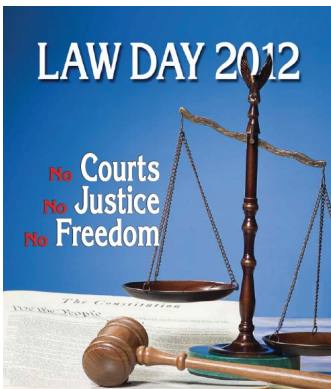
The Law Office of Keith Taylor has been helping individuals, families, and businesses in Citrus County for 15 years and we are excited to expand our business to offer residents of Marion County the same exceptional service that we have been honored to provide in Citrus County.

So come and join us on Friday, May



18th to learn more about our firm, and to have a great time!

Law Day 2012—May 1, 2012



In 1958 President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the first Law Day as “a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law.” Every president since has taken the occasion of Law Day as an annual opportunity to proclaim our nation’s ongoing commitment to the democratic rule of law.

This year, the Law Day theme, **“No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom,”** underscores the importance of the courts and their role in ensuring access to justice for all Americans. As American Bar Association President

William (Bill) Robinson III stated, “All of us must have and protect our right and our freedom to use courtrooms when we need to. That courtroom must be open to protect families. That courtroom must be open to validate and protect contracts for business. That courtroom must be open to keep the wheels of justice turning. That courtroom must be open to defend our individual rights to prove again and again that we continue to be a free society.”

This year, local Bar Associations including the Citrus County Bar Association

and the Hernando County Bar Association will be holding Law Day Events for both the local attorneys and judges, as well as for the public. These activities will include Law Day presentations for the public on May 2, participation in the Relay for Life at Lecanto High School on May 4th, and a luncheon with the 5th District Court of Appeals on May 15th.

To learn more about Law Day 2012, the theme, or the events in your area, visit the American Bar Association website at www.americanbar.org.

The Dynamics of Foreclosure and Divorce

As the economy worsens and housing continues to decline, many people have made the decision to allow their homes to go into foreclosure and to “walk away” from their mortgages. Some even continue to live in the home without payment as their foreclosure case moves forward.

In a divorce case, an issue can

arise when one spouse wishes to “walk away” or stop paying the mortgage. The other spouse may not agree for a number of reasons, including not wanting to risk a foreclosure on his or her credit, not wanting to risk losing the marital home and wanting to preserve marital assets.

Under Florida law, the parties have a joint obligation to maintain the asset, despite the wishes of one party to

“walk away”. Therefore a Judge can force the parties to continue to make the monthly mortgage payment and make both parties responsible for the mortgage. A Judge can also force each party to pay their share (or the full amount) of the mortgage each month until the divorce is final and it is decided what would happen with the marital home.

While the facts of every case are

different, the important thing to know is that the parties have an obligation to remain current and responsible on marital expenses and responsibilities, including the marital home. The lawyers in our firm are experienced in both of these fields and are equipped to provide appropriate legal advice given your particular situation.

STOP HUNGER NOW - Meal Packaging for the Hungry

Each year, many of the team members here at The Law Office of Keith R. Taylor as well as their families participate in the Stop Hunger Now initiative to package healthy, filling meals for the hungry around the world. Working with many local organizations including the Crystal River Rotary Club and the Citrus-Hernando Inn of Court, as well as dozens of individual volunteers from around the county, our team helps Stop Hunger Now package six-serving bags packed with nutrient rich rice and soy, which can be rehydrated when it's received by one of the thou-

sands of school children to which the organization distributes the meals.

The process of packaging the meals offers volunteers a unique opportunity to have a hands-on impact on decreasing worldwide hunger and improving the lives of children internationally. In only two hours, a group of 40- 50 volunteers can package 10,000 meals to help feed hungry children worldwide.

This year's event, held on Saturday, February 25th, at Crystal River High School saw over 100 volunteers who

worked together to package 50,000 meals.

For more information on the work the Stop Hunger Now organization is doing worldwide, or what you can do to help, visit www.stophungernow.org.



The Importance of Safe Driving in Florida

Most Vehicular Deaths by State, 2009

California	3081
Texas	3071
Florida	2558
N. Carolina	1314
Georgia	1284
Pennsylvania	1256
New York	1156
Ohio	1021
Tennessee	989
Illinois	911

Source: National Highway Safety Administration

In 2009, Florida ranked third for the highest number of motor vehicle related deaths of all the states in the country. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading killer of children, teens, and young adults (ages 5 to 34) and

among the top ten causes of death for all ages. Over 30,000 people are killed in crashes each year in the United States. (Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention) Causes like impaired driving and distracted driving put all Florida motor vehicle operators at risk.

There are, however, a few things you can do each time you use your vehicle to help Florida's highways be a safer place for us all.

(1) Use appropriate seat belts and safety restraints. Children should be placed in an appropriate safety seat (rear facing for children under 2 years, front facing for children 2-4 years, and a booster seat for children up to 8 years, or until they can comfortably wear an adult seat belt restraint). When adults use seat belts in a vehicle, it sets the example for younger riders and increases the chance they will also wear appropriate safety

restraints.

- (2) Ensure seat belts and restraints are used properly. One study by the Department of Transportation found that 72% of observed safety restraints were misused in a way that could be expected to increase the risk of injury during a crash.
- (3) Don't be a distracted driver. Each day, more than 15 people are killed and more than 1,200 people are injured in crashes that were reported to involve a distracted driver. Distracted driving activities include things like using a cell phone, texting, eating, and using navigation systems. While any of these distractions can endanger the driver and others, texting while driving is especially dangerous because it involves taking your eyes off the road, hands off the wheel, and mind off driving.

- (4) Drive defensively. Stay focused and alert while driving. Pay attention to road conditions, your speed, observing traffic laws, signs and signals, following directions, being aware of the cars around you, and checking your mirrors. Never operate a vehicle while tired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs (even some over-the-counter medications can impair your ability to react quickly to changes around you).

At The Law Office of Keith R. Taylor, we often meet families of those who have lost loved ones in motor vehicle accidents. The pain they face should never have to be endured. If we all work together to make Florida's roads a safer place, we can help reduce the tragic loss that comes from motor vehicle accidents.

Please, drive safely.

Meeting All Your Legal Needs

Current Resident and/or

Visit Our Website
www.KeithTaylorLaw.com

What if my Will was written in another state?

Wills written outside of Florida are valid in Florida if they were validly written in that state (or country). Florida, however, does not recognize holographic wills (wills that do not have two witness signatures and the signature of the testator). So you will need to make sure that your will does have two witness signatures and your own signature in order for it to be valid here in Florida.

However, even if your will is valid, you may want to consider re-writing your will now that you're here in the Sunshine State. There

are advantages to having a Florida will including that Florida allows the testator to create a separate document that distributes tangible personal property without amending their will. Tangible personal property includes things like fur coats, specific pieces of jewelry, or pieces of art.

This is very convenient and many people like the advantage of being able to keep a separate list of these tangible personal property items and who they want to leave them to because the process for updating or changing this list is much simpler than revising your

will.

A separate writing is only valid if the document is specifically referred to in the will itself. If your will was written in a state that does not allow the use of the separate tangible personal property list, it will most likely not be referred to in your will and you will not be able to take advantage of this convenient statutory provision. More detailed information regarding the separate memorandum distributing tangible personal property can be found at § 732.515, Florida Statutes.

*Last Will
and
Testament*

If you're considering updating your last will and testament from Florida or from another state, feel free to call our office and schedule a consultation with Adam Czaya, or you can contact him through our website by visiting www.KeithTaylorLaw.com/ContactAdam.htm.