



KH Law News



June 2007

The Edge on Today's Top Legal News

What are the Odds? A look at Estate Planning...

What are the odds your family will need estate planning? Well, anyone who will die someday needs to plan for that eventuality—that means everyone! In addition, anyone who will ever be disabled or incapacitated needs to plan for that eventuality as well. How will you know if this could happen to you? Well even for those in their 20's and 30's, the odds of at least a 3-month disability prior to age 65 are over forty percent!

Of course, none of us think that this will *actually* happen to us. We think we will have a warning and can prepare then. Of course, if we knew when, where, and how we might meet our fate, we could put our affairs in order at the last minute. We could even modify our behaviors to avoid what we knew to be our fate. Even if we could wait until the last minute, doing so would add immeasurable pressure, stress, and difficulty during an already difficult time in our lives.

None of us know how we will meet our end. However, here are some statistics as to the odds:

Heart Disease	1-in-5
Cancer	1-in-7
Stroke	1-in-23
Accidental Injury	1-in-36
Motor Vehicle Accident	1-in-100
Intentional Self-harm (suicide)	1-in-121
Falling Down	1-in-246
Assault by Firearm	1-in-325
Fire or Smoke	1-in-1,116
Natural Forces (combined)	1-in-3,357
Electrocution	1-in-5,000
Drowning	1-in-8,942
Air Travel Accident	1-in-20,000
Flood	1-in-30,000
Legal Execution	1-in-58,618
Tornado	1-in-60,000
Lightning Strike	1-in-83,930
Snake, Bee or other Venomous Bite or Sting	1-in-100,000
Earthquake	1-in-131,890
Dog Attack	1-in-147,717
Asteroid Impact	1-in-500,000
Tsunami	1-in-500,000
Fireworks Discharge	1-in-615,488

June's Issue Features...

- ~ What are the Odds?
- ~ Celebrate Dad
- ~ Pre-Nuptial Agreements: Keeping Realism in Romance
- ~ Welcome Law Clerks!
- ~ KH Kudos and Birthdays

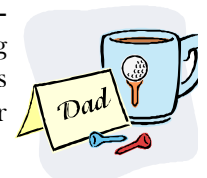
Whether you are destined to die from a common cause like cancer or heart disease, or a rarity, such as a tsunami or impact from an asteroid, planning is essential. Without it, you have no voice or control over what happens to your family and property once you are gone. Your property would go where ever the state says it should go. The court would also appoint a guardian to care for your minor children without any information from you as to who you would prefer in that capacity.

Let your voice be heard and have things set in place now in order to accomplish your ultimate goals. You will rest easier knowing things are taken care of. When health issues arise, a well laid-out estate plan is priceless.

Attorney Michelle T.L. Hernandez has extensive legal experience in the area of estate planning and is an active member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys. To schedule your free consultation today, simply call (800) 431-9776.

Don't forget about Dad!

Make sure the future he provided for you is secure! You can share the importance of an estate plan with our Estate Planning Survival Kit. Come in for a free consultation with our estate planning attorney, Michelle T.L. Hernandez. For more information regarding either of these amazing opportunities, please call us today at (800) 431-9776 or visit us on the web!



Pre-Nuptial Agreements: Keeping Realism in Romance

Congratulations! You are engaged to be married and planning a wedding. You and your significant other feel like characters out of a romance novel. You expect nothing less than to live happily ever after. With the exchange of new found love and affection, often comes the exchange of verbal promises, which, a few months prior to the wedding day, sound perfectly reliable. Quite romantic, however, not very realistic.



Let's face it, 50% of all marriages end in divorce. Without a properly drafted agreement, you may someday suffer a significant financial loss. Obviously, this is not in the best interest of you or your children. Pre-nuptial agreements, also known as Marital Property Agreements, are relatively inexpensive depending on the size of your estate. Pre-nuptial agreements are generally valid and enforceable as long as the following conditions are met:

Each party must make a fair and reasonable disclosure to the other regarding his/her financial status, preferably in writing.

Each party must enter into the agreement voluntarily and freely, preferably with his or her own independent legal counsel.

The substantive provisions of the agreement must be fair to each party.

It is also recommended that both parties have a reasonable opportunity to review the proposed agreement with his/her own legal counsel well in advance (at least one month) of the wedding. The contract should also be signed in front of a notary.

Many engaged couples find it difficult to discuss a pre-nuptial agreement due to the fact that it's "unromantic". However, a pre-nuptial agreement is simply a legally binding contract, as is a marriage license. It is part of the "business" of marriage, as is buying a home together, sharing bank accounts and dividing living expenses. A pre-nuptial agreement merely defines who owns what. Moreover, it is an act of responsibility to provide for the inheritance rights of your children. It is practical and smart. Wisconsin has very complicated marital property laws and such an agreement, if drafted by a qualified attorney, will clearly define each party's property rights.

For more information on pre-nuptial agreements, please call us today at (800) 431-9776.



Krueger & Hernandez SC would like to extend a warm welcome to

Ms. Yadira J. Rein
and
Mr. Sina Javaherian

who will be joining us as law clerks this summer. Welcome!

It's Shelley's Birthday!!!

June 9



Happy
Birthday
Shelley!
Hope it's
a great

We would like to recognize the following employees for their years of service:

Dera L. Johnsen (7 years)
and
Eileen Shanks (9 years)

We're lucky to have you ladies!!!



All of us here at Krueger & Hernandez SC want to wish you a safe and exciting summer!

~ Mark L. Krueger ~ Michelle T.L. Hernandez ~ Gregory J. Fumelle ~ Eileen Shanks
~ Renee Nehring ~ Stacie Ray ~ Shelley Craker ~ Dera Johnsen ~ Kara Sanger
~ Fawn Lawton ~ Yadira Rein ~ Sina Javaherian



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