The Elder & Disability Law Firm
of Victoria L. Collier, PC

VICTORIA'S VOICE: COMFORT NEWS TO USE

CONFIDENCE . COMFORT. CARE.

It is the mission of The Elder & Disability Law Firm of Victoria L. Collier to EMPOWER not impoverish our clients.

Second Quarter Edition 2016

Tax Day Is Approaching

April 15th is always bitter sweet for me. My birthday is April 14th, something I still find joy in celebrating. But then the next day I am usually writing a check to Uncle Sam. While I don't like to write the check, it does remind me how appreciative I am to have been able to help so many people find peace of mind while putting in place their estate plans, or protecting their assets for their long term care needs, or leveraging their assets to ensure they never run out of money and can leave a legacy.

Many seniors do not have to file taxes because they do not owe taxes. However, most people don't realize they can itemize the cost of home health care (even if provided by an adult child), assisted living or nursing home care, which may create a refund for the senior. Every little bit helps, especially when paying out of pocket for health care.

Taxes this year (for 2015) are not due until **April 18, 2016** because Washington D.C. is observing the Emancipation Day holiday on Friday, April 15th instead of April 16, 2016.

Be sure to consult with a CPA who is experienced with seniors taking deductions for health care expenses. If you need a referral, please contact our office and we'd be happy to give you one.

Victoria is so knowledgeable about elder law and estate planning. She provided options that I did not know existed. Everyone on the staff is friendly and helpful.

- Pattie Johnson

IN THIS ISSUE

Spring Cleaning!

The weather is going to get nice real soon – no longer cold but not yet hot! People often use this time to do "spring cleaning" – really going through your house and purging old items you no longer need, cleaning ceiling fans and baseboards, and switching the closet from winter to summer clothes.

This is also the perfect time to review your estate and long term care plans to see if they still meet your desires. As we change and we experience life changes, our documents may need to change too. As we age and our priorities change, our financial strategies should change too.

Take a day to blow off the dust and see if your plans are still in line with your life. If not, give us a call to see how we can get them back on track for you.

Funeral Pre-planning

When a person signs a will, they are pre-planning for death. Usually the planning stops there until there is a medical crisis necessitating permanent residency in a nursing home. At that time families call us to see how they can save their assets and qualify for Medicaid. As part of the Medicaid "spend down" process, we often advise the client to pre-plan and pre-pay their funeral, burial or cremation costs. In this situation the family pays a lump sum to a funeral home to secure the pre-need contract. Other than in a crisis situation, people may not want to pay thousands of dollars in advance, but do want to make sure they are covered.

I just learned, and wanted to share with you, that Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes, Inc. offers pre-need funeral plans where their clients can make monthly payments for three years, five years, or 10 or 20 years, making the investment much more doable. Gregory B. Levett, Sr. has been in business since 1980, following in his father's footsteps. In 2015 he was named by the American Funeral Director Association, Funeral Director of the Year. Mr. Levett is 65 years of age and understands the sensitive issues as individuals and families live, age and die. He is also embedded deeply in Decatur, donating his time and over $1,000,000 to his community. In addition to the four funeral homes he owns, he also owns Cremation Care of Georgia in Conyers.

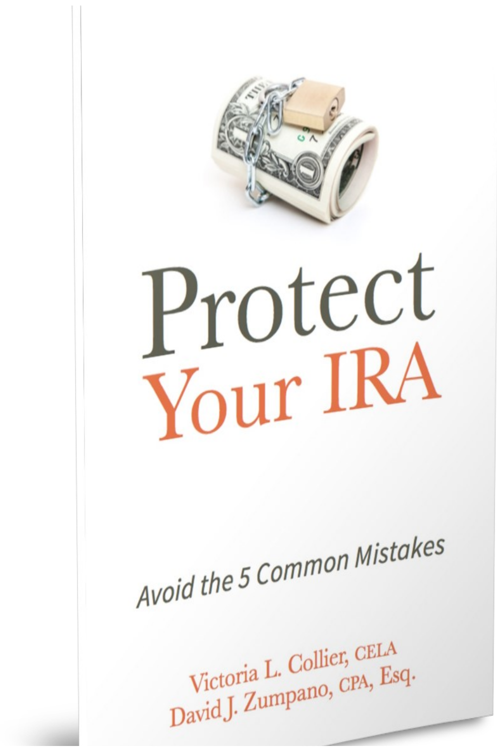
If you are interested in pre-planning your arrangements to relieve your family of that emotional activity, I encourage you to reach out to Michael Shabazz, Advanced Planning Specialist, at 678-383-7477, or MichaelJShabazz@gmail.com, www.levettfuneralhome.com.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

Victoria's wealth of experience and expertise was shared to provide options for me. Her organized process was comprehensive and included education for my family members. Victoria's team provided information for me to prepare prior to meeting with her making our time together efficient, productive, and pleasant. My questions were answered thoughtfully by all staff members.

- Linda C.

Proper Management of Your Retirement Funds



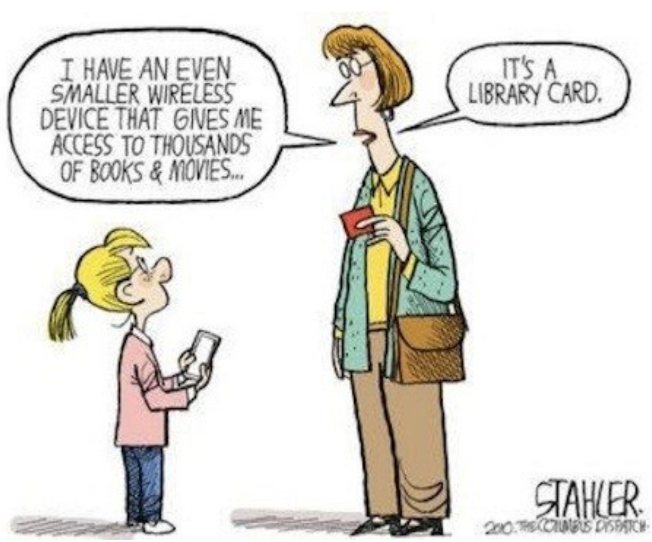
Other than owning a house, the next largest asset I see that my clients have are retirement funds. Saving for the future. Their future as well as for their loved ones. When I meet with clients who are in their late 70's or 80's, I often hear, "I want to leave these to my kids." When I ask them what asset they spend first when long-term care is needed, the response is usually, "my savings."

I am excited to announce the publication of my latest book, Protect Your IRA: Avoid the 5 Common Mistakes, co-authored with attorney and CPA Dave Zumpano, who is also my partner in the business we founded called Lawyers with Purpose. The FIVE mistakes we discuss in the book include:

1. Trying to Avoid Income Taxes Now
2. Incurring Unexpected Excise Taxes
3. Losing your IRA to Long-Term Care Costs
4. Paying Income *and* Estate Tax
5. Naming Your Beneficiaries as Beneficiary

When reading and understanding the information in the book, you will see why the information I hear from my clients may be costing them valuable money.

To obtain a complimentary copy of the book, please contact our office at 404-370-0696. Also, if you would like a review of your retirement plan, long-term care plan, and estate plan, you will receive a $150 discount if you use the code "IRABOOK" when you call to schedule your appointment.



APRIL is National Humor

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UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

at Our Office

There is no fee to attend the workshops, however due to a limited number of seats available, you are required to call the office at 404-370-0696 to reserve a seat.

Thursday, March 10 @ 1:00PM—3:00PM

Tuesday, March 22 @ 10:00AM—Noon

Thursday, April 14@ 1:00PM—3:00PM

Tuesday, April 26 @ 10:00AM—Noon

Thursday, May 12 @ 1:00PM—3:00PM

Tuesday, May 24 @ 10:00AM—Noon

CONTACT US

Give us a call for more information about our services and products .

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