



# ESTATE & ASSET PROTECTION INSIDER



## DEATH DISCUSSIONS DEBRIEF

By Victoria Collier, CELA

We hosted our first Death Discussions event on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The people in attendance were very appreciative to have a forum where they could share how death has impacted them. One young lady shared that she currently has untreatable cancer. People especially appreciated the information our two guest speakers shared. Melody LeBaron, a midwife for the dying and grieving, and author of the forthcoming book *Creating Sacred Space for Conscious Dying: Preparing the Room and Yourself for Life's Graduation*, and George Portier, death coach and companion currently assisting Colin Tipping, author of *Radical Forgiveness and Saying Yes to My Cancer*, with his dying process. I feel, however, that this first meeting was just the beginning of a greater, deeper, continuing conversation. There are still questions people want to ask, feelings people want to share, and ideas of impact we as a community can implement. Thus, I am inspired to host a second Death Discussion. Please join us on **July 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 4:00**. Refreshments and compassion will be served.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14TH! THIS DAY STANDS TO COMMEMORATE THE ADOPTION OF THE UNITED STATES' FLAG. IN ADDITION, THE US ARMY CELEBRATES ITS BIRTHDAY ON THIS DAY!

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR A TRICKY FLAG DAY GAME! P.S. THERE'S A PRIZE!



## FATHER'S DAY DISCOUNT!

June is a great month. The kids are out of school, Flag Day (June 14) to commemorate the adoption of the United States flag, and Father's Day. I have 9 year-old twins who love June. I served in the military where every day I stood at attention and honored what the flag represents, often with tears in my eyes. And, I had a father who meant the world to me. My dad died in January 2013, so I no longer celebrate Father's Day with him, as is the case with so many of my older clients. Yet, I do still get to see and spend time with fathers almost every day in my office, creating estate and asset protection plans to protect their families. For the first time ever, I am excited to offer a 10% discount to ALL fathers who call our office in the month of June to schedule a consultation for estate planning. Your families depend on you and you can depend on us. **Call us now at (470) 235-7868** to schedule your appointment and you will get **10% OFF** any estate plan we create with you.

## SPECIAL THANKS

WE GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CLIENTS WHO TRUST US WITH THEIR LEGAL SERVICES NEEDS, OUR REFERRAL SOURCES WHO PUT THEIR REPUTATION ON THE LINE WHEN THEY RECOMMEND US, AND OUR TEAM WHO WORKS TO *EXCEED* OUR CLIENTS' EXPECTATIONS.

## BEYOND ESTATE PLANNING – THE GIFT OF CARE

When people think of “estate planning”, generally they are thinking about who gets their “stuff” when they die. Yet, many of our clients have the means and want to see their loved ones get the benefit of some of their “stuff” while they are still alive. Our client, Barbara, has given us permission to share her story.

Barbara and Craig were both retired and moved to Georgia to be closer to their children. Craig had been an orthopedic surgeon and Barbara was, and remains, very involved in her church in a pastoral position. They have two daughters, both in their 50’s and married. One is an athletic referee and the other is a choir director in church. All of them live the life and have careers they absolutely love, but without a big paycheck.

Craig managed all the finances until he died in 2018. Barbara had no idea what their net worth was. After she found out, she felt that it was much more than she alone would need while alive, especially since she also had long-term care insurance that would defray the cost if she should need assistance at home,

assisted living or nursing home care. It was important to her to make sure her children were as secure and protected as she was, given any one of us could need care at any age.

Barbara could just “give” the kids some money. But instead, to further her values, Barbara decided to use a portion of her assets to create a plan that would allow her children to have long-term care coverage, as well as their spouses, for the rest of their lives. Because the plan used a life insurance policy with long-term care rider, if her children never need the care, the death benefit will still be available to the family. Doing this has provided joy and relief to Barbara and her children, positively affecting all of their estate and asset protection plans.

If you would like to explore this option for your family, please contact The Estate & Asset Protection Law Firm for an assessment. The law firm works closely with Victoria Collier’s other business, Red Feather Financial, to meet both the legal and financial goals of our clients.

### ESTATE PLANNING FACT OR FICTION! *Let’s play...*

Can you guess whether the statements below are true or myths? Let’s find out, circle your answer and then find the correct answers at the bottom of page 4.

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. I’m married, so when I die everything will go to my spouse.                  | Fact / Fiction |
| 2. A Will can oversee the distribution of all of my assets.                     | Fact / Fiction |
| 3. Having a Will does not mean I get to avoid probate.                          | Fact / Fiction |
| 4. My family knows what I want and will “do the right thing”.                   | Fact / Fiction |
| 5. You should only start your Estate Plan if/once you’re wealthy, sick, or old. | Fact / Fiction |
| 6. Estate planning can be simple and stress free with some help.                | Fact / Fiction |

## SUMMER HEAT – KNOW YOUR LIMITS



It was Saturday afternoon at 1:00 when I decided to squeeze in a two-mile run before meeting new friends at the pool with our children. The temperature was 90 degrees with barely a breeze. I decided to run in a neighborhood adjacent to mine to change up the scenery. Once I hit two miles, I was barely able to breathe or go further, but I was lost and home didn't seem as close as it should have been. I looked at the route on my phone and discovered I was 1.4 miles from home.

At first I thought I could just walk a bit and then run the rest of the way home; after all, I had just run 4 miles the weekend before. A familiar feeling started washing over me. When I was 16 and running on my high school cross-country team in humid Houston, TX in August one morning, I was challenged with heat exhaustion. Light-headed,

possibility of fainting.

So, I stopped. I stopped walking. I stopped listening to my ego saying I could push through it. Instead, I started thinking about the effects on other people, like my children, if I had a head stroke. So, I stopped and stood under a shade tree and called my spouse to come pick me up – to rescue me. Avoiding the embarrassment, shame, or sense of failure was not near as important to me as getting home alive and without a medical crisis.

This summer will be hot. Make sure you and your loved ones take plenty of breaks, drink lots of water, and leave the ego behind.

To your health and happiness,

*Victoria L. Collier*

**Victoria L. Collier, CELA\***

**\*Certified Elder Law Attorney**

## BITCOIN UPDATE

By Victoria Collier, CELA

**S**hhh! Don't let anyone know you have or are curious about Bitcoin (digital currency). After the rise to \$20,000 per coin in November 2018, it fell and crashed hard to under \$4,000 per coin. It is on the rise again, currently hovering around the \$8,000 per coin mark. Financial experts still debate if this is a viable investment vehicle or if it is a scam. I personally don't know, and don't provide financial advice on whether a person should own any or not. But, if Bitcoin goes as high in value as some experts are predicting (\$40,000 per coin by end of 2019), and if you own any, I do advise to ensure your estate plan is drafted specifically to include proper disposition upon death. That will include ensuring that someone else that you trust knows where to find the "key" and wallet where you store it. Too many people own digital assets totally in the dark – privacy is their forte – but estates have lost millions by not doing the proper planning. Our firm is keenly aware of the issues and how to plan to protect both your privacy and your digital assets.



## WATCH OUT! THERE'S A NEW SCAM GOING AROUND

If you have elderly parents that love their grandkids, please make them aware of this new scam. I've seen it twice now in one week - luckily neither family fell for it however it was still traumatic.

The scam works like this: a con-artist will pose as a "friend" of their grandchild and will inform them that their grandchild has been arrested. The con-artist will know the grandchild's name and other basic information likely obtained from Facebook. This "friend" tells the grandparents that their grandchild is too scared to call his/her parents and they need to FedEx cash or buy Green Dot Prepaid Visa cards for the grandchild's immediate release. If they do not do this, they are told their grandchild will be convicted. It is very emotional and intense, and these con-artists are incredibly convincing.



**HANG UP ON THESE CON-ARTISTS.** Talk to your loved ones - there's different variations to this scam but NEVER EVER send cash/pre-paid cards/Western Union/gift cards to anyone. **100 times out of 100 it's a scam.**

### ESTATE PLANNING FACT OR FICTION! **ANSWERS**

1. **Fiction.** What about any unforeseen heirs? Don't think you have any? Heirs are determined by the court only after you are deceased and a familial relation is not seen as a requirement by certain courts. Wouldn't it be nice for you to decide who your belongings go to, instead of the government?
2. **Fiction.** Did you know you still have to go through probate with a Will? Thus, the probate court will actually oversee distribution. In addition, if you do not choose an executor\* for the will, the court will appoint an administrator\* who will get paid from your estate.
3. **Fact.** See answer above.
4. **Fiction.** Yes, your family loves you. But how do they know what "the right thing" is? Have you discussed your desires? Does your family know the best way to protect your independence in unforeseen situations? Without written instructions of your desires, family members are often challenged with making difficult and stressful decisions, while in an emotional state.
5. **Fiction.** An estate plan not only protects your assets, but your quality of life as well. Everyone, regardless of age, has the right to live and die with dignity and grace.
6. **Fact.** For many, the most stressful part of estate planning is finding answers for all the difficult questions. We not only guide you through discovering the answers, but the ones most desirable for unique needs.

\*Executor: the individual appointed in the Will responsible for managing the affairs of a deceased person's probate estate

\*Administrator: a person appointed by a court to manage the affairs of a deceased person's probate estate





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## IT'S SEMINAR TIME!

The Estate and Asset Protection Law Firm will be hosting another round of FREE education seminars:

*Planning for the Second Half of Life* and the  
*Senior Financial & Asset Protection Workshop*

As always, these seminars will provide valuable information about how to protect yourself and/or loved ones. In addition, refreshments will be served, parking will be validated, and attendees will receive **free** gifts and **exclusive** perks.

### June 13th 2PM & 7PM

#### SENIOR FINANCIAL AND ASSET PROTECTION WORKSHOP

This seminar covers frequently asked questions and common misconceptions regarding:

- Protecting your assets and paying for nursing home care with Medicaid.
- Why gifting assets to loved ones outright in their own names can hurt them and you.
- Alternative Long-Term Care options.
- Why Trusts can be especially important if you have retirement plans/IRAs.

### June 27th 2PM & 7PM

#### PLANNING FOR THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

Highlights include...

- The most common mistakes Baby Boomers make (when planning for the second half of life) and how to avoid them.
- How to avoid having your life savings or retirement plans wiped out by the cost of care as you get older.
- Uncover the secret source of paying for long-term care costs that may lie hidden in your retirement plan.
- What every Baby Boomer should know about the differences between Traditional Estate Planning and Longevity Estate Planning.
- How to care for yourself and your spouse and how to maximize the assets you leave your kids... plus how to protect their inheritance from less than trustworthy spouses or creditors.

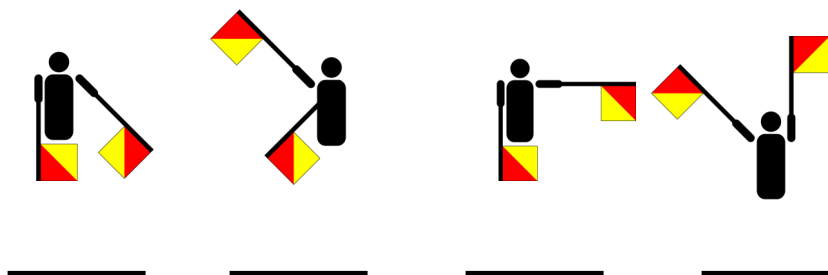
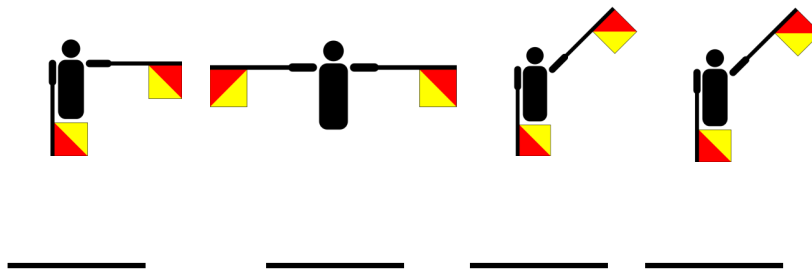
**CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS! (470) 235-7868**

## CAN YOU CRACK THE CODE?

In honor of flag day, allow us to introduce you to a form of communication that some may already know: **Flag Semaphore**. Flag semaphore is a means of communication by which you visually signal with flags.

Each position represents a different letter. Can you spell out the phrase below?

\*Hint: The key can be found in the [newsletter](#) section of our website.



Think you have it figured out? Call our office at (470) 235-7868 to find out & **claim your prize!**



\*prize eligible for month of **June only**\*