

New York Office
 110 E. 37th Street
 New York, NY 10016

South Florida Office
 500 East Broward Boulevard
 Suite 1600
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33394

West Florida Office
 7273 Bee Ridge Road
 Sarasota, FL 34241

Tennessee Office
 862 Med Tech Parkway
 Suite 200
 Johnson City, TN 37604

E-MAIL:
 clientservice@
 TheAndersenFirm.com

TOLL FREE:
 866.230.2206

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 full version of the monthly
 update:

TheAndersenFirm.com

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I. Reflection of the Month

“The trout fisher, like the landscape painter, haunts the loveliest places of the earth, and haunts them alone. Solitude and his own thoughts—he must be on the best terms with all of these; and he who can take kindly the largest allowance of these is likely to be the kindest and truest with his fellow men.”

– Thomas Hughes

II. On the Lighter Side

A couple left their attorney's office after meeting to discuss the preparation of their Wills. On the drive home, the following conversation takes place:

Husband: You know honey, I've been thinking. If I die, I don't want you to be alone. I want you to get remarried. (pause) And, really, there's no reason for you to sell the house; so it's ok if you and your new husband live in our house. (pause) And come to think of it, we have two fine cars, so I wouldn't have a problem with him driving my car. (pause) In fact, I wouldn't have a problem with him using my tools, my fishing rods or our lawnmower. There's just one thing that would bother me. I just don't want him using my golf clubs. That would be too much for me, so just sell them in a garage sale, ok? (pause).

Wife: I wouldn't worry about that honey. He's left-handed.

III. Paying for Your Parents, It's the Law

Article by Will Andersen, Paralegal
The Andersen Firm

It is well established that parents are financially responsible for their children. This is no surprise to most people, but what is less

commonly known is that in several states **you can be financially responsible for the care and expenses of your parents.** Failure to pay can result in civil court actions and in some states criminal penalties. These laws are known as "filial responsibility laws," and can be found on the books in the following 28 states:

Alaska • Arkansas • California • Connecticut • Delaware • Georgia • Indiana • Iowa • Kentucky • Louisiana • Maryland • Massachusetts • Mississippi • Montana • Nevada • New Jersey • North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • South Dakota • Tennessee • Utah • Vermont • Virginia • West Virginia.

Of these states, nineteen allow for civil actions to be brought against an adult child to obtain ongoing financial support and/or recovery of costs already incurred by their parent. Twelve states enforce criminal penalties, which could even include time behind bars, and three states allow for both. It should be noted that of the twenty-eight states with filial responsibility laws, only eleven have ever actually used them.

While there are slight variations to the each state's individual laws, they are for the most part, relatively uniform.

1. **The parent must be indigent**, meaning that they have no way to pay for their own care. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it more difficult for people to qualify for Medicaid long-term care, shifting the cost of care on to the nursing homes or the person's

family. For this reason, filial responsibility laws have become an attractive way for nursing homes to recover debts.

2. **The child must be financially able to pay.** If paying would put the adult child into financial hardship, a court will not make them pay. Interestingly, there is no duty to attempt relief from all of the parent's children. Support can be sought from only one adult child and not their siblings.

Exceptions:

1. The adult child is **not financially able**.
2. The adult child is **already incurring a significant cost** for a dependent (ex. paying for their own child's college tuition)
3. **Abandonment.** If a child can show that the parent abandoned them for at least two continuous years before they turned eighteen, AND that the parent was physically and mentally able to support them at the time.
4. **The parent's prior bad acts** toward the child can also be looked to determine how much support, if any a child is responsible for.

Resources:

http://theconsumervoicework.org/uploads/files/issues/Filial_Responsibility_Memorandum.pdf

<http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/02/26/ask-the-expert-parental-support-and-the-law/>

IV. The Top 5 Regrets People Make on Their Deathbed

Source: Bronnie Ware

Posted in [Organic Health](#)

Bronnie Ware is an Australian nurse who spent several years working in palliative care, caring for patients in the last 12 weeks of their lives. She recorded their dying epiphanies in a blog called "Inspiration and Chai", which gathered so much attention that she put her observations into a book called "The Top Five Regrets of the Dying."

Ware writes of the phenomenal clarity of vision that people gain at the end of their lives, and how we might learn from their wisdom. "When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently," she says, "common themes surfaced again and again."

Here are the top five regrets of the dying, as witnessed by Ware:

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.

"This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honored even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made. Health brings a freedom very few realize, until they no longer have it."

2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard. "This came from every male patient that I nursed. They

missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret, but as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence."

3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings. "Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result."

4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends. "Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying."

5. I wish that I had let myself be happier. "This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realize until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called 'comfort' of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others, and to their selves, that they were content, when deep within, they

longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their life again."

Food for thought, what is your greatest regret so far, and what will you set to achieve or change before you die?

V. It May Be Necessary to Re-Evaluate Current Estate Plans for New Yorkers

On March 31, 2014, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation to implement the New York State fiscal plan for 2014 - 2015. The legislation makes broad changes to the New York State (NY) estate and gift tax laws, as well as some more technical changes to certain trust income tax rules. These broad changes may warrant the re-evaluation of estate plans currently in place.

NY Estate Tax Exclusion Increases

Under the new law, beginning immediately and over the next five years, the NY estate tax exclusion amount (formerly \$1 million) is increased incrementally until the NY exclusion matches the federal estate tax exemption as follows:

For decedents on or after...	The exclusion amount will be...
April 1, 2014	\$2,062,500
April 1, 2015	\$3,125,000
April 1, 2016	\$4,187,500
April 1, 2017	\$5,250,000
Jan. 1, 2019	Scheduled to equal the federal estate tax exemption

Top NY State Estate Tax Rate

The top NY estate tax rate remains 16 percent.

Falling Off the Estate Tax “Cliff”

The benefit of the new NY exclusion amount is “phased out” for taxable estates between 100 percent and 105 percent of the NY exclusion amount. As a result of the law's estate tax “cliff,” taxable estates that exceed 105 percent of the NY exclusion amount will lose the benefit of the exclusion completely—the entire taxable estate will be subject to the NY estate tax (applied at graduated rates). The old exclusion amount resulted in the avoidance of \$33,200 of NY estate tax on the first \$1 million of value, which benefit was phased out at a rate of 41 percent as the taxable estate exceeded the exclusion amount. The new exclusion regime, at its highest published statutory rate, will result in the avoidance of \$420,800 of NY tax, which benefit will then be phased out as the taxable estate exceeds the exclusion amount until it is lost in full when it exceeds 5 percent of the exclusion amount.

Three-Year Look Back

The new law also adds a limited 3-year look back period for gifts made between April 1, 2014 and Jan. 1, 2019. Specifically, if a NY resident dies within three years of making a taxable gift, the value of the gift will be included in the decedent's estate for purposes of computing the NY estate tax. The following gifts are excluded: (1) gifts made when the decedent wasn't a NY resident; (2) gifts made by a NY resident *before April 1, 2014*; (3) gifts made by a NY resident *on or after Jan. 1, 2019*; and (4) gifts that are otherwise includible in the

decedent's estate under another provision of the federal estate tax law (*that is*, such gifts aren't taxed twice).

Other Benefits and Burdens

The new law also repeals the NY generation-skipping transfer tax, eliminating it as a planning and administration concern. And the new law provides permanent relief for surviving non-citizen spouses, allowing a marital deduction without the requirement of a qualified domestic trust when a federal estate tax return isn't required to be filed.

On the income tax side, the new law specifically identifies the income of an “incomplete gift non-grantor trust” as being included in the income of the trust grantor, eliminating such trusts as a vehicle to avoid NY income taxes on residents. Beginning in 2014, throwback rules will also impose tax on income accumulated in a NY residents' trust that avoids current taxation pursuant to the exception for trusts having no NY trustees or assets, and that's subsequently distributed to a NY resident beneficiary.

Narrowing the Gap

This new law will narrow, and eventually eliminate, the gap between the NY and federal estate tax exclusion amounts. For the next five years, however, as the exclusion amount increases and the 3-year look back for taxable gifts applies, planning will be more complex. In any event, it's important for NY residents to have a review of their current estate plans to determine if changes or gifting strategies are appropriate.

COMMENTS: If you have clients who could use a complimentary estate plan review or an initial discussion of their estate planning needs please contact our office at **866.230.2206** to organize a time that works for you and your clients' schedules.

VI. Mustache Trust

The *mustache* has been the craze over the last several years. Frequently considered the gentlemen's symbol, many a young man has proudly displayed his first mustache.

Unfortunately, the mustache may not be as impressive as the owner believes it to be. It could possibly be underwhelming and a few years later, when looking back, may have been just a little embarrassing.

Similarly, trusts may not be what the proud owner expects or believes them to be. These are a few mustache trusts as described by Robert T. Napier of WealthManagement.com:

The Anchorman Mustache Trust



This trust is sometimes referred to as a joint trust. That is, one trust used by both husband and wife. While a few expert draftsmen can make this type of trust work, these trusts are sometimes silly and often most appropriate in smaller estates or in community property states.

The Groucho Marx Mustache Trust

This is the estate plan that seemingly uses a trust but actually doesn't. We see this, for example, when the planner thought the wife didn't need a trust because the husband held all the assets in his name. Another more common version has most or all the family assets held in joint tenancy or names a beneficiary on the family assets; both approaches may completely bypass the trust.



The Milk Mustache Trust



This trust is cute but really doesn't accomplish much. An example of this is the trust that names grandchildren as recipients of large specific bequests or as primary beneficiaries. While The Milk Mustache Trust reminds the grandchildren that they're loved (which they already know), it can be an inefficient use of generation-skipping transfer tax exemption and cause untold unintended consequences.

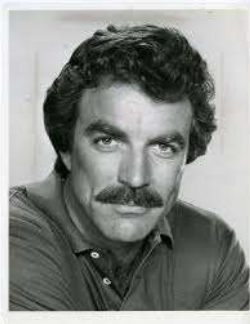
The Too Complicated Mustache Trust

This kind of trust has requirements for specific investment allocations, uses intricate formulae or committees for



decision making and creates uncertainty as to how it should be administered. These trusts are always created with the best intentions; however, complicated trusts can create unhappiness and litigation. In a technical world governed by a Byzantine tax code, keeping things as simple as possible can be beautiful.

The Magnum PI Mustache Trust



This trust is robust and does what it was intended to do, without going overboard. While you may need a hacksaw to go through it, this type of trust protects loved ones from divorce, lawsuits and estate taxes

imposed by federal AND state governments.

Source: WealthManagement.com

VII. Letters of Wishes

The Icing on the Estate Plan Cake

Article by Will Andersen, Paralegal
The Andersen Firm

When it comes to people's estate planning, one pervasive question has always been, "How can I be sure my estate will be handled according to my wishes?" While estate planners have many tools in their proverbial bag to ensure this happens, there are certain things no number of legal provisions or amount of legal jargon can

guarantee, but a "letter of wishes" can be very helpful.

A letter of wishes is a non-binding document created by the client with the sole purpose of clarifying any ambiguities on how they would act or would want the trustee to act. Again, this is a non-binding document, so a trustee is not required by law to follow any of its contents, however it can be immensely helpful for the trustee when met with uncertainty regarding what you would do.

For instance, say the language of a trust states the trustee may make distributions to the beneficiaries for "health, education, maintenance, and support." This is a very common standard, but leaves shades of gray for the trustee to deal with. Let's say our client, Walter, is recently deceased. His best friend Jesse was named as trustee with full discretion over distributions, and is responsible for handling the estate according to Walter's wishes. Walter has named his two children, Walt Jr. and Holly, as beneficiaries. One day Walt Jr., who has Cerebral Palsy, asks Jesse for a distribution to purchase new medical equipment. Jesse will easily agree to this because medical equipment clearly falls under "health." But what if Holly asks for a distribution to pay for her divorce proceeding? Is that maintenance? Support? Would Walter have even *wanted* to give Holly money for this? This is the kind of question a letter of wishes can help Jesse answer.

Luckily, Walter wrote a letter of wishes to Jesse in case he ever needed guidance. In part Walter wrote, "My children have been the light of my life. That being said, Holly has always been

quick to leave her husbands, and I'm afraid I contributed to that by paying for her first three divorces. She knows I do not want to continue this pattern in death; therefore I do not wish to pay for any more of Holly's divorces unless there are extreme circumstances."

Jesse can now look to Walt's letter of wishes in deciding how Walter would have acted. Jesse still has complete discretion over whether to make the distribution or not, as the letter does not bind Jesse and is not part of the trust documents. While at first glance Jesse's ability to disregard Walter may seem unfavorable, it can actually be very beneficial. It allows Jesse to maintain full discretion and look at the situation objectively without tying his hands. If, for instance, Jesse sees Holly is in an abusive relationship and not simply marrying and divorcing for fun, he can still make the distribution. The knowledge that Holly and Walt Jr. will never see the document also allows Walter to tell Jesse what he truly wants, without being concerned it will hurt his children's feelings or tarnish his memory in their eyes after he is gone.

A letter of wishes can be one of the best tools for ensuring your **intent** regarding your estate is carried out long after you are gone, not simply an interpretation of the oft-ambiguous language in the trust. They are not mandatory, not binding, and not overly discussed, but they are a fantastic way to make sure when the curtain finally closes on your life, your trustee can fill your role and take care of your loved ones just as you intended.

VIII. Be Wary of Private Companies Selling Copies of Deeds and Other Documents

Article by Teresa Sorah, Paralegal
The Andersen Firm

This week I received another email from a county clerk urging residents to be cautious of private companies trying to sell public records that can be easily obtained in a trip to the courthouse or online.

These companies often send official-looking letters advertising the government's recommendation that all citizens have certified copies of their records, such as property deeds. They then offer copies of the records for fees ranging from \$40 to \$89 or even more.

Deeds and other official records can be obtained from your county clerk's office for just a few dollars -- not for the excessive prices these companies are charging. Solicitations like this may be legal, but they are misleading. We often hear from our clients who have received these notices and want to know what they should do. We advise clients to search for the records online and if they need a certified copy to contact the county clerk.

COMMENTS: The Andersen Firm is available to assist clients, Financial Advisors and other financial professionals with their estate settlement and probate needs. Contact Teresa Sorah at 866.230.2206 or by email at TSorah@TheAndersenFirm.com to discuss how we can assist you and your clients during this difficult and emotional time.

IX. Gift Tax, Estate Tax, Inheritance Tax & Income Tax by State

State	Gift Tax	Estate Tax	Inheritance Tax	Income Tax
Alabama	None	None	None	5%
Alaska	None	None	None	None
Arizona	None	None	None	4.54%
Arkansas	None	None	None	7%
California	None	None	None	13.3%
Colorado	None	None	None	4.63%**
Connecticut	\$2M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 12%	\$2M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 12%	None	6.7%
Delaware	None	\$5.34M Exemption*; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	6.6%
Florida	None	None	None	None
Georgia	None	None	None	6%
Hawaii	None	\$5.43M Exemption*; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	7%
Idaho	None		None	7.4%
Illinois	None	\$4M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	5%**
Indiana	None	None	Repealed (Effective Jan 1, 2013)	3.4%***
Iowa	None	None	\$25K Exemption; Top Tax Rate 15%	8.98%
Kansas	None	None		4.8%
Kentucky	None	None	Up to \$1K Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	6%
Louisiana	None	None	None	6%
Maine	None	\$2M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 12%	None	7.95%
Maryland ⁶	None	\$1.5M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	10% Tax Rate	5.75%
Massachusetts	None	\$1M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	5.2%
Michigan	None	None	None	4.25%
Minnesota ⁷	None	\$1.2M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	9.85%
Mississippi	None	None	None	5%
Missouri	None	None	None	6%
Montana	None	None	None	6.9%
Nebraska	None	None	Up to \$40K Exemption	6.84%
Nevada	None	None	None	None
New Hampshire	None	None	None	5%****
New Jersey	None	\$675K Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	Up to \$25K Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	8.97%

State	Gift Tax	Estate Tax	Inheritance Tax	Income Tax
New Mexico	None	None	None	4.9%
New York ⁵	None	\$3.125M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	8.82%
North Carolina	None	Repealed (Effective Jan 1, 2013)	None	5.8%**
North Dakota	None	None	None	3.22%
Ohio	None	None	None	5.392%
Oklahoma	None	None	None	5.25%
Oregon	None	\$1M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	9.9%
Pennsylvania	None	None	\$3500 Exemption; Top Tax Rate 15%	3.07%**
Rhode Island ¹	None	\$1.5M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	5.99%
South Carolina	None	None	None	7%
South Dakota	None	None	None	None
Tennessee ^{2,3}	None	\$5M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 9.5%	None	6%****
Texas	None	None	None	None
Utah	None	None	None	5%**
Vermont	None	\$2.75M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	8.95%
Virginia	None	None	None	5.75%
Washington ⁴	None	\$2.012M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 20%	None	None
Washington DC	None	\$1M Exemption; Top Tax Rate 16%	None	8.95%
West Virginia	None	None	None	6.5%
Wisconsin	None	None	None	7.65%
Wyoming	None	None	None	None

¹ Rhode Island's exemption is indexed for inflation each year

² Tennessee calls the *Estate Tax* an *Inheritance Tax*

³ Tennessee is scheduled to repeal the Estate Tax on Jan 1, 2016

⁴ Washington's exemption will be indexed for inflation

⁵ New York increased the estate tax exemption on April 2, 2015 from \$2,062,500 to \$3,125,000. The exemption will continue to increase annually until it matches the federal estate tax exemption in 2019.

⁶ Maryland increases estate tax exemption in 2016 to \$2M, 2017 to \$3M, 2018 to \$4M and matches the federal estate tax exemption in 2019

⁷ Minnesota increases the estate tax exemption each year by \$200K until 2018 when it reaches \$2M

* Follows federal exemption

** State has flat income structure

*** State only taxes interest and dividend income, not wages

**** State has flat income structure AND state only taxes interest and dividend income, not wages

X. Audit Rates & Valuations

In March 2015 the American Institute of CPAs released this guide on valuations: Continuing Education Requirements:

The following statistics should help further emphasize how important well documented valuation reports are when submitted for estate and gift tax purposes. The Internal Revenue Service Data Book 2012 reported of the 12,582 estate tax returns filed in 2011, the IRS audit rate of these returns was 29.9 percent! Estates with assets of \$5 million up to \$10 million had an audit rate of 58.6 percent, and estates above \$10 million had an effective audit rate of 116 percent (due to the investigation into returns filed in tax years prior to 2011).



XI. House Votes 240-179 to Repeal Estate Tax

Article by Ashley Ebeling
 Posted on Forbes.com

The House of Representatives voted to kill the federal estate tax today 240-179, with 7 Democrats joining. That doesn't mean that the estate tax is going away anytime soon, but anti-death tax advocates say it sets the stage for possible repeal in 2017. Significantly, the bill

keeps in place a provision called "stepped up basis" that allows capital gains to escape taxation if passed to heirs.

For now, there aren't enough votes in the Senate, and President Barack Obama would veto estate tax repeal anyway.

"Representatives are interested in showing that this is a priority and continuing the drumbeat," says Palmer Schoening, head of the Family Business Coalition which lobbied on behalf of

82 business groups in favor of the repeal bill, H.R. 1105, introduced by Kevin Brady (R-TX). Sen. John Thune (R-SD) sponsored a companion bill, S. 860.



Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) wants to repeal the federal estate tax. (Credit: Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg)

Only 2 out of every 1,000 people who die are subject to the federal estate tax, according to Tax Policy Center estimates. That's because there's a huge exclusion amount—\$5.43 million per individual or \$10.86 million per couple—before the tax kicks in (the top rate is 40%).

Arguments for repeal: it would spur the economy and lift burdens on owners of small businesses and farms. Karen Madonia, chief financial officer of Illco, a Chicago-area HVAC supplies distributor, testified on Capitol Hill last month how an estate tax on her father's death would mean selling parts of the company (shutting down branches, laying off workers or liquidating inventory) to pay it.

Arguments in favor of the tax: it helps reduce concentrations of wealth and produces additional revenue. Repealing the tax would cost the Treasury \$270 billion over 10 years. On average, 55% of the value of estates worth more than \$100 million is made up of unrealized capital

gains that have never faced income or capital gains tax, according to Americans For Tax Fairness' review of Federal Reserve Data.

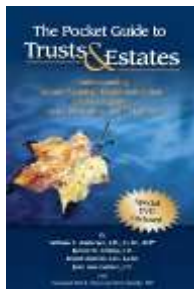
The White House frames the issue a different way on its blog: Taxpayers have a choice of “giveaways to the wealthy few” (“5,400 of America's wealthiest households would get an average tax cut of more than \$3 million”) versus “tax cuts for the middle class” (44 million middle-class families would get an average tax cut of nearly \$600).

President Barack Obama's latest budget calls for lowering the estate tax exclusion amount back to \$3.5 million per person and raising the top rate to 45%. And he wants to eliminate the “stepped up basis” provision that allows capital gains to escape taxation if passed to heirs. By contrast, the House bill called for both repealing the estate tax—AND—keeping “stepped up basis.” That means huge appreciation would never be hit with tax. The last year of the Bush tax cuts, in 2010, repeal was less generous. Then, taxpayers could choose either to pay no estate tax but lose step up on appreciated assets OR keep step up and pay estate tax.

The House vote will likely make the death tax an election issue, predicts Schoening. The last House vote on estate tax repeal was in 2005, when it passed 272-162, with 42 Democrats joining.

Resource: <http://onforb.es/1FP90K3>

XII. The Pocket Guide to Trusts and Estates



Bill Andersen, Joleen Searles and Jim Collins with Erin Turner and Jerry Saresky have released their collaborative book *The Pocket Guide to Trusts & Estates: Understanding Estate Planning, Estate*

Settlement, Estate Litigation, Asset Protection and Elder Law. If you have not already received your complimentary copy, call Angela Christian today at 866.230.2206 and she will send you your personal copy. Books can be purchased on Amazon.com as well.

XIII. www.TheAndersenFirm.com

How many of you have visited our website? I encourage you to take a moment and review our *Resources* page for some of the following tools and information:

Rack Cards: If you are in need of one of our rack cards to discuss information with a client, all of our rack cards may be accessed online.

Flowcharts: Many of our financial advisors have requested flowcharts to explain Estate Planning to their clients. These helpful tools can be found in this area.

Presentations: Many of our continuing education seminars are posted online for you to download and review.

Forms & Handouts: Our *Estate Planning Snapshot Questionnaire* is located under this section. All clients will be asked to complete this form either prior to their complimentary estate planning meeting or may be completed by the attorney during their meeting. Completing this in advance will help us be respectful of everyone's time. You will also find the *Gift Tax, Estate Tax, Inheritance Tax & Income Tax by State Chart* in this section.

Current Event Updates: You can find the most recent and archived copies of the *Financial Advisor Current Events Update*.



COMMENTS: If you have questions about The Andersen Firm's practice areas, need assistance with continuing education or with client seminars, or have a question or suggestion about our website, **Angela Christian** is our **Director of Professional**

Alliances and is available to assist you. Angela welcomes your calls and may be reached at 866.230.2206 or by email at ACChristian@TheAndersenFirm.com.

XIV. The Andersen Firm Areas of Practice

Estate Planning

- At The Andersen Firm we have planned for a vast array of estates ranging in size from a few hundred thousand dollars to a hundred million dollars and up, all the while realizing each

specific case is different and requires specialized attention.

Estate Settlement

- The process of settling an estate can be difficult and emotionally painful for the family and loved ones of the deceased. It is our goal at The Andersen Firm to ensure that the process be handled with compassion, expedience, professionalism, and expertise, while protecting the rights of all parties involved. If the circumstances surrounding a client's estate require probate, our attorneys offer extensive experience in handling the processes and legalities involved.

Estate Litigation

- Our lawyers are not only skilled at handling cases involving estate and trust disputes, they draw on a thorough knowledge base of the specific procedures surrounding these issues. The Andersen Firm can efficiently take each case through to completion realizing that full blown litigation often can be avoided if we work diligently to come to resolution.

Attorneys at The Andersen Firm represent beneficiaries, trustees and personal representatives in various jurisdictions dealing with estate litigation and probate litigation matters. A Will contest challenges the admission of a Will to probate or seeks to revoke the probate of a Will that is already pending before the probate court. A similar type of estate litigation can take place contesting the terms of a trust. The most common causes of action in both

Will contests and estate litigation can be found at www.TheAndersenFirm.com or call us at 866.230.2206.

Asset Protection

- For some, putting an Asset Protection Plan in place is advisable in order to attempt to remove the economic incentive to be sued and also to try and increase the ability to force an early settlement in the event a suit is filed.

XV. Our New Writer

You will notice there are a couple of articles in this edition written by Will Andersen. William "Will" Andersen, Jr. serves as Paralegal to Attorney William E. Andersen. Will has worked at The Andersen Firm for over 10 years in a variety of roles including administration, human relations, and marketing and assists in client meetings.



Will is married to his sweetheart, Leeza. He and his wife currently reside in New York where Will attends law school at Hofstra University. When not working, he trains extensively in Mixed Martial Arts and is an avid fly fisherman. He is co-owner of the South Holston River Lodge.

*Newsletter content compiled by:
Angela Christian
Director of Professional Alliances*