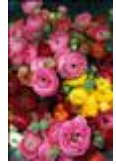

Lidia Carr Law Offices, LLC Newsletter - July 2009



With the most recent and very untimely high profile deaths of Michael Jackson and OxiClean spokesman Billy Mays we are once again reminded of the precious and fleeting nature of life. On June 29, 2009, the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association said that Billy Mays' autopsy results point to a sudden cardiac arrest, and that the unfortunate premature deaths of Mays and Michael Jackson within one week of each other highlight the prevalence of sudden cardiac arrest, which is the nation's leading cause of death.

And let's mention some non-celebrity real people. Early this year my daughter and I were taking a parent-child dance and tumbling class at the Beachwood Community Center. We had a great instructor -- a lovely, active, under 40 years old mother of two young children. And then one day I get a phone call notifying me that the class had to be cancelled in the middle of the curriculum because our instructor had suddenly died of a massive heart attack.

Well, as an estate planning attorney, one of the first things that comes to my mind when hearing such sad news is the importance of having one's affairs in order, just in case.

Look at Michael Jackson's situation. Although he was not married at the time of his demise, he had been married several times during his life and was survived by three minor children born to two different women. Then it is probably a good thing that he left a Will naming his mother the guardian of his minor children. Now, it will take a really long time to sort out all of the complexities of Michael Jackson's estate, but at this point immediately after his death at least his minor children do not have to be additionally traumatized by having to go through various court hearings on guardianship.

Here is a thought -- we can't control when and how we die, but we can control how hard it is for our loved ones to sort out through what's left of our lives. Please have your estate planning in order, so that your loved ones can concentrate on the appropriate grieving

process and not have to deal with various additional and unnecessary after-death issues.

If you have minor children - please have an up-to-date valid legal document that at least names guardians for your minor children.

And whatever your personal and family situation - please have an up-to-date estate plan. It doesn't have to be an elaborate one to do what needs to be done depending on your circumstances and goals.

Please take action and contact an estate planning attorney for a consultation.

Having said all of the above -- Have a Very Happy and Safe Fourth of July Weekend While Enjoying Life!

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