



The Law Offices of Jeffrey S. Salisbury



Clients & Friends Newsletter

May 2009

How are you doing?

Vacation time is upon us again. Our family jumped the gun this summer and took its vacation early during the last week of May. We hauled our boat down to Lake Tahoe and spent an interesting week dodging lightning bolts and rain drops. We did manage to get 3 days of boating in by hauling our rig down a 3,000 foot mountain road with a 9% grade into Nevada by Carson City at a beautiful lake called Topaz Lake. The most interesting part of the vacation, though, occurred during a picnic lunch near the lake. A large red-tail hawk perched on a low walking bridge over the river with an eye to pouncing on several baby ducklings swimming near their mom. Each time the hawk would peer down at them, they would swim under the bridge so that the hawk would not see them. That was not the hawk's only problem, as several crows began dive-bombing him to harass him for no apparent reason. Eventually the hawk flew away, with the crows nipping at its tail. Whereupon the baby ducks were led back out into the stream by mom and enjoyed a peaceful and safe afternoon. As we drove away, we couldn't help but reflect how our own lives are often similar to the baby ducks in that there are times to enjoy life freely and fully, but there are also times to take shelter to weather through the storms we all face. Here's to a fun and safe summer for all of us!

Tip of the Month!

Most of you are aware of the many benefits of putting together a good estate plan. These include saving time and money by avoiding probate, minimizing death taxes, and making sure that your assets are passed to the proper beneficiaries. However many are under the misimpression that once an estate plan is prepared, the process is over, permanently. This is far from true, as many things change over time thus necessitating a review and possible update of your plan. For example, I had a client who, as he became older, felt less and less secure managing his own living trust and financial assets by himself. It was a simple matter to add a trusted child as a co-trustee and as a power of attorney holder to assist the parent in handling things comfortably and securely. Other examples where estate plan updates are necessary include changes in tax law, marriages, births, or deaths in the family, a move out of state, and a change in your financial circumstances. Finally, if your desired beneficiaries have changed, or you have developed charitable giving inclinations, this too would necessitate updating your estate plan. The point here is that your plan needs to be current when you need it most, i.e., when you pass away. No one will care that it was well drafted and effective when it was first prepared. Taking a closer look at your plan every few years, or in the event of any of the above mentioned changing circumstances, is vital to preserving the benefits to which a properly drafted estate plan entitles you. As always, I am just a phone call away if you would like to discuss whether your current estate plan still meets your needs.

Law Office of Jeffrey S. Salisbury, 4725 Village Plaza Loop, Suite 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401
(541) 345-7007- phone • (541) 342-5213- fax • salisburylaw@comcast.net • www.jeffsalisburylaw.com

The information in this Newsletter is general in nature and cannot be considered legal advice. You should only obtain any such advice directly from your own attorney through personal consultation.

If you would like to unsubscribe, please contact our office.