



Florida Elder Law & Estate Planning E-Newsletter August 2017

Message from our Attorneys

A solar eclipse is headed our way. On Monday, August 21, skies will darken across the U.S. as the moon obscures the sun, cutting a 70-mile-wide swath as it travels from west to east. Floridians will see just a piece of the phenomenon, but you can track the totality on the NASA [website](#). Check when the spectacle begins and how much of it is visible in your zip code [here](#). The last time a total solar eclipse was visible solely from this part of the world was the year 1257. The next time most of the U.S. will be treated to the phenomenon is April 8, 2024.



We have exact timetables for celestial events, but that kind of precision is hard to come by here on earth. For example, after months of congressional fits and starts and wildly varying predictions, the latest version of the Affordable Care Act repeal/replacement bill was just defeated. In a world where there is little certainty, we assure you of this: The Karp Law Firm will keep scanning the legal skies, and alert you whenever we spot changes that could impact you and your family.

All the best,

Joseph S. Karp
Genny Bernstein *Mark Gotlieb* *Adele S. Harris*
Jonathan D. Karp *Chad L. Steskal* *Rachel G. Zetouni*



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Free Workshops

Want to know how to protect your assets and your family during your lifetime, and after? Attend one of our free informative events to find out how. (August will be our last set of workshops until October.)

Workshop Schedule

Signing On As Health Care Surrogate? Consider This First



Agreeing to be someone's health care surrogate is a serious decision - more serious than many people realize. Before you say yes, be sure you understand the full scope of your potential responsibilities.

[**Read more**](#)

Kudos to Joseph Karp

For the eleventh consecutive year, Thomson Reuters has recognized Attorney Joseph Karp as a Super Lawyer. Every year and all year long, Mr. Karp recognizes that our clients are super, too. Thank you!

[Read more](#)

Medicaid Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance Increases

More changes to Florida Medicaid rules regarding long-term care nursing home benefits: The spousal Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance has been adjusted upwards.

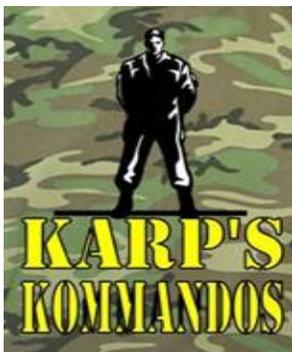
[Read more](#)

Back to Basics: The Living Trust

For most clients, setting up a living trust is a beneficial legal strategy. It allows you to protect your family and yourself while maintaining control over your assets during your lifetime. However, the popularity of this legal instrument has led to a number of common misconceptions about what it can and can't accomplish.

[Read more](#)

Karp's Kommandos on the Move



Karp's Kommandos will be participating in the October 2017 Alzheimer's Walks. The walks raise funds for research into the disease, which affects so many of our clients and their families. If you would like to donate to the cause, please see our team pages for the [Treasure Coast Walk](#) and the [West Palm Beach Walk](#).

Beware Social Security Misinformation

Figuring out how to wring maximum dollars from your Social Security benefits? You will need to consider many factors, including your age, whether you are or were married, your income, and your work status. As recent reports show, it's best not to rely solely on the Social Security office for comprehensive advice.

[Read more](#)

Think Your Kids Want Your Stuff? Maybe Not

Downsizing? You may have cherished items you plan to give to your adult children. Better adjust your expectations, though. The typical adult child isn't fond of collecting too much "stuff," however precious it is to Mom and Dad.

[Read more](#)

Your Florida Drivers License Getting A Makeover

Starting in August, Florida will begin issuing drivers licenses with more identifying data - for example, organ donor, hearing disabled, insulin dependent, military veteran and more. There may be a fee for certain designations. Your current license will remain valid until it expires.

[Read more](#)

Sales Tax Holiday



The 2017 Florida sales tax holiday begins Friday, August 4 and continues through Sunday, August 6. Certain school supplies, clothing items, and various computer-related items purchased for personal use, are exempt from sales tax during this period.

[Details](#)

When Your Estate Plan and Beneficiary Designations Don't Match

It's a common mistake you should avoid: The dispositions in a your will or trust say one thing, but the beneficiary designations for your assets say something else. This is more than a clerical error. If not corrected before you pass on, it can damage the relationships among your heirs.

[Read more](#)

Thank you for your referrals!

We sincerely appreciate everyone you send to us and are so grateful for your confidence. Please encourage your referrals to mention you so that we can thank you personally!



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