



## Florida Elder Law & Estate Planning E-Newsletter November 2016

 Forward to a Friend

### Message from our Attorneys



**Sending all our friends sincere wishes for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!**

**All the best,**

Joseph S. Karp

Genny Bernstein

Adele S. Harris

Chad Steskal

Rachel Zetouni

Jonathan D. Karp

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#### **In This Issue:**

**Free workshops**

**Nursing home pre-arbitration clauses barred**

**We're walking to end Alzheimer's**

**Social Security recipients, here comes your COLA**

**Should your bequest have strings attached?**

**Black Friday best bets**

**Alert for parents of special needs children**

**Welcome Attorney Jonathan Karp**

**A health care proxy shares his journey**

**It's a girl!**

**Power of attorney must be specific**

**IRS extends filing deadlines for those affected by hurricane**

[Need a referral?](#)

[Quick Links:](#)

[Website](#)

[Blog](#)

[Free Workshops](#)

[Elder Law Radio](#)

[Palm Beach Post Legal Column](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter - Florida Estate Planning](#)

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[Contact Us](#)

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## **Free workshops**

Just one more chance to attend an estate planning workshop this year! In November we present our last round of events for 2016. Remember, these informative sessions are always free and require no reservations.

## [Workshop Schedule](#)

## **Nursing home pre-arbitration clauses barred**

Long-term care facilities that receive federal funding will no longer be permitted to include pre-arbitration clauses in admissions contracts, enabling residents to sue in a court of law.

## [Read more](#)

## **We're walking to end Alzheimer's**

Our law firm again participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's fundraiser in Jensen Beach. Thank you to all the participants and to the clients who supported us!

## [Photos](#)

## **Social Security recipients, here comes your COLA**

Social Security recipients are getting a cost-of-living adjustment in 2017. Unfortunately, it will not be big enough to make much of an impact on your



pocketbook.

[Read more](#)

### **Should your bequest have "strings" attached?**

Do you want some say over how your heirs spend the money you leave them? "Ruling from the grave" is rarely desirable. However, in certain situations it may be prudent to build in some controls. The story of Robert Morin's surprisingly generous gift to his alma mater provides an interesting case in point.

[Read more](#)

### **Black Friday best bets**

The day after Thanksgiving kicks off the official holiday buying season. But not everything is a bargain on Black Friday. Here is what's worth buying, and what's better left on the shelf.

[Read more](#)

### **Alert for parents of special needs children**



A Medicaid waiver can allow your intellectually disabled child to receive financial assistance and remain in the community. To ensure eligibility for a waiver, it is wise to have your child I.Q. tested before he reaches age 18.

[Read more](#)

### **Welcome Attorney Jonathan Karp**

We are happy to announce that Attorney Jonathan D. Karp has joined the firm. The last name is no coincidence. He is Attorney Joseph

Karp's son.

[Read more](#)

### **A health care surrogate shares his journey**

Making health care decisions for an aging parent can be emotionally wrenching. You can ease the burden on your child (or on whomever your decision-maker is) by establishing a well-crafted health care surrogate, and by talking with your surrogate about your preferences with as much specificity as possible. Here is a touching account of one son's journey through his mother's health care issues.

[Read more](#)

### **It's a girl!**



Executive Assisant Julie Dobson will be out of the office until the new year, for a wonderful reason: A new baby!

[Photo, read more](#)

### **Power of attorney must be specific**

We continue to advise people to avoid generic powers of attorney that are available on various websites and in pre-printed format. If a specific action is not authorized, your agent cannot do it. Mistakes could have dire consequences, as one daughter applying for Medicaid for her mother discovered, too late.

[Read more](#)

### **IRS extends filing deadline for those affected by hurricane**

Erring on the side of safety for clients and employees, we closed our offices during Hurricane Matthew. We appreciate everyone's flexibility in rescheduling appointments. The storm was mild for most, but did cause some water and wind damage in St. Lucie County and points north. If you were affected, the IRS will extending your tax filing

deadlines.

[Read more](#)

### Need a referral?

If you have a legal issue our firm does not handle, call us anyway. We are *your* law firm! We can often give you some general advice, or provide you with a name or names of legal professionals we consider to be competent and trustworthy. Contact us [here](#) or call 561-625-1100.



The Karp Law Firm, P.A.  
Trusts, Estates, Elder Law, Estate Litigation

2875 PGA Blvd., Suite 100, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
(561) 625-1100

2500 Quantum Lakes Dr., Suite 203, Boynton Beach, FL 33426  
(561) 752-4550

1100 SW St. Lucie West Blvd., Suite 103, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
(772) 343-8411

Toll Free (800) 893-9911 Email: [klf@karplaw.com](mailto:klf@karplaw.com) Web: [www.karplaw.com](http://www.karplaw.com)

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