

InComplete THOUGHTS

A Newsletter
*about life, death,
and things
in between...*



Inside the Issue



IN CONTEMPLATION

The staff at Complete Estate & Probate Law contribute and discuss what's on their mind.

Also included: Legacy Corner

THINGS TO KNOW

We share updated information about estate planning, and things in the news that might affect or interest you.

RECOMMENDATIONS

What we're reading, watching, cooking, celebrating or otherwise doing outside of work.

IN CONTEMPLATION...

by Polly Bartle Blomquist

I'm traveling to New York this week with my husband and two teenagers for spring break. I love New York, the energy, history, food... I even love the subway. The last time we were there my children were small and we had a great time, but our trip this time will be much different now that our children are teenagers.





THINGS TO KNOW

by Polly Bartle Blomquist

Guardianship of Minor Children Upon the Death of Parents.

Whenever my husband and I travel without our children, I reevaluate our estate plan, specifically thinking about who would parent our children if something happened to us. As time progresses, my thoughts change, as have my children and the people I would entrust with them.

So what happens when you die when your children are minors? If the other parent is still living, nothing happens. The surviving parent continues to act.

If both parents pass away, the Will nominates a guardian; however, the Guardian still must apply through the court and have a court hearing. The court will appoint the person you've nominated unless that person fails to qualify for some reason under the law.

So whom should you choose, and what should you consider?

There are numerous factors to consider and a few are listed below.

Kids need as smooth of a transition as possible; if both parents pass away, children will be in crisis. Keeping things as consistent as possible will be best.

Location- keeping children in the same community, school, church, activities, friends and support system will ensure there aren't additional stressors of a relocation.

Parenting- If possible, choose people who share your parenting style and people who are willing to integrate your children into their lives and treat them like their own.

Values- You are working to instill your values in your children. You want to choose someone who will continue this legacy.

Is this family? Maybe, maybe not. Friends are definitely an option. You know what is best for your family. Does age matter? Should you choose your parents? Choose the person who you think would parent your children best now. You can always change your mind in the future. You can't possibly know what things might look like in 10 years, but you know how they are today.

Is there ever a perfect decision? No, but there is usually an acceptable solution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

New York City

9/11 Museum- this was my second time at the 9/11 museum. I enjoyed it just as much as the first time. It was extremely crowded, but so very well done. If you have limited time, I would spend only a small amount of time on the personal stories and spend a bulk of time on the timeline of events. It really is fascinating to see the order of things.

Ellis Island- Ellis Island is one of my New York favorites. They have an outstanding audio tour. I've done the adult tour and the child tour. Both are excellent.

Riding Public Transportation- You can do it! Google Maps makes it so easy. We didn't take an Uber or Taxi once, not even to the airport. We felt very safe on the subway, police were everywhere.

Brooklyn Bridge- We really loved walking the Brooklyn Bridge. The history and condition of the bridge is awe-inspiring, as is the view.



The blue paintings are several artists depiction of the color of the sky on Sept 11.

IN CONTEMPLATION...

continued

People always tell you when your kids are small to "cherish this time, it goes so fast." They're right.

Two years. That is what we have left with our son before he spreads the wings we've so desperately worked to give him and flies to the great unknown to begin his life's adventures.

There's so much I want to tell him. Things he needs to know to avoid pain, struggle...heartache. Yet those hard things build our character, develop grit, and create a person who can overcome the adversities life brings our way despite all attempts to avoid them. Parenting is such an interesting dichotomy between the heart and mind.

It's really all about legacy, pouring into him our values and convictions to help him be the person we wish we were. At work, I talk every day about death, the ultimate finish line. I think about it for my clients in a financial and legal sense, but my soul contemplates it on a much deeper level. Legacy extends so much further than a transfer of funds from one generation to the next. It's the fingerprints we press into the minds and hearts of persons with whom we come in contact each day and those entrusted to our care.

What is the legacy I want to leave to my children? How am I doing that? Are they learning who and what to be from me, or are they learning life lessons from the confused voices of their friends or the small device that commands so much of their time? These are the things I ponder as the sands slip quickly through the hourglass.

So today, as we fly out to New York City, I will live in the moment, savor the experience, toss off frustration, and try to insert moments of teaching, leading by example with fun, patience, grace, and love. A small part of the legacy I want to leave...



Legacy Corner

Where we share our family traditions, recipes, and other ways, we are passing on our legacy...

I know you think your mom is the best cook, but my mom is actually the best cook. She is legendary for these biscuits, we fight over them at each holiday. I make them but they are never quite the same as hers. They are a cross between a yeast roll and a buttermilk biscuit. Light and airy but tangy and rich we slather them in butter and honey. Divine!

Kentucky Angel Biscuits

- 1 and 1/4 package of Rapid Rise Yeast + a pinch of sugar
- 1/2 cup very warm water
mix and let sit until foamy

Sift following dry ingredients into a large bowl

- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3 Tbsp. Sugar

Cut into dry ingredients

- 3/4 cup cold butter

Once combined and crumbly, make a well and add

- 2 cups cold buttermilk

Let rise in a warm place until dough doubles in size. Roll out and cut into rounds. Grease 9x13 pan generously, dip tops of biscuits in oil from bottom of pan, then place into oiled pan. Bake @ 400 for 10-12 minutes or until tops are golden brown. Serve immediately.

From the kitchen of Kay Bartle, AKA Grammy, Polly's mom.

Let us know if you try them!