

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LEGAL SOLUTIONS

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGAL NOTES

DEC 2017

WHY IS ESTATE PLANNING IMPORTANT FOR YOU AND YOUR AUTISTIC CHILD?

Although the term “estate planning” can sound intimidating, it simply means planning for what will happen with your assets once you pass away. Believe it or not, nearly everyone has an “estate.” Your estate includes everything you own – your car, home, other real estate, checking and savings accounts, investments, life insurance, furniture, personal possessions. And no matter how large or small your estate may be, everyone has something in common – you can’t take it with you when you die.

When that happens, you want to control how those things are given to the people or organizations you care most about. To ensure your wishes are carried out, you need to provide instructions stating whom you want to receive something, what you want them to receive, and when they are to receive it. However, estate planning is often more complicated if you have an autistic child.

First, your autistic child likely has greater needs. Depending on where your child falls on the spectrum, he may require specialized treatment that includes therapy, housing, education, adaptive equipment, and many other services. The need for this care may be lifelong. Providing the appropriate care requires careful estate planning.

Second, estate planning is the only way to ensure that you can provide



Scott and his son, Will

for your child without jeopardizing his eligibility for government and private benefit programs.

Finally, estate planning is the only way to protect your child’s financial interests today as well as in the future, when you may no longer be able to help.

Article by Scott Swier



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A WHOLE NEW LOOK!

We have been updating our monthly newsletter layout and were planning on rolling it out in 2018, but we are so excited that we just couldn't wait any longer! Inside you are going to find a new layout with room for more articles and features, our monthly recipe, and a monthly contest for our Legal Notes subscribers ONLY! We hope you find

the information helpful and interesting (and maybe the recipes a little delicious!). If you have any ideas or would like to give us feedback, we'd love to hear from you - just send an email to Sara Travis, our Executive Director, at Sara@SwierLaw.com.

SOUTH DAKOTA FAMILY LAW - TOP 10 WAYS TO CO-PARENT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Co-Parenting is difficult, but it can be even harder during the holiday season. Here are ten ways to make the situation better for everyone.

- 1. Be positive:** Don't make your child feel bad for going to spend time with the other parent. Instead of feeling guilty for leaving one parent, aim for the child to be happy to have two holidays with two loving—not combative—families.
- 2. Listen to Volunteered Preferences:** If cooperation exists between co-parents, listen if your child volunteers a reasonable preference when considering the holiday visitation plan (do not ask the child and put them in a position of choosing if they do not voluntarily express their preference). If they express a preference but it is unreasonable, at least make them feel like they are heard and try to incorporate it into the compromise.

- 3. Maintain / Establish Traditions:** If there are traditions that fall outside of your visitation time, consider deferring those traditions for when you have your child.
- 4. Empathize and Don't Act Selfish:** Wanting to keep your child to yourself during the holidays (and in general) is a very natural parental feeling. Differentiate this desire from how you act around your child. It is okay to feel this way, but it is not okay for your child to feel guilty or responsible because of the arrangement.

Article by Rebekkah Steinwand

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NAME THAT MOVIE!

There are so many reasons to love the holiday season, but enjoying classic holiday movies is at the top of the list for many! To many people, it doesn't matter what movie they watch - or even if they know every word of the movie - curled up in front of a blazing fire with some hot chocolate makes it even memorable!

We hope you will take some time to make new memories and enjoy the holiday season with the ones you love.



QUICK & CLASSIC EGGNOG

Ingredients

- 3 Cups Milk
- 1 Cup Light Cream
- 2 Whole Cloves
- 2 Cinnamon Sticks
- 1/2 Tsp Vanilla Extract
- 1/2 Tsp Ground Nutmeg
- 6 Egg Yolks
- 3/4 Cup Sugar

Directions

1. Bring milk, cream, whole cloves, cinnamon sticks, vanilla bean and nutmeg just to boil in medium saucepan on low heat.
2. Beat egg yolks and sugar in medium bowl until pale yellow in color and fluffy.
3. Gradually add 1 cup of the hot milk mixture, mixing with wire whisk until well blended.
4. Gradually whisk mixture back into the remaining milk mixture in the saucepan. Cook and stir on medium-low heat 3 to 5 minutes or until mixture thickens and coats the back of a spoon.
5. Strain into large bowl. Cool slightly. Cover.
6. Refrigerate overnight or until well chilled.





Scott
Swier

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It's Time To Talk Back!



Brooke
Schloss



Jake
Fischer



Mike
Henderson



Amanda
Work



Rebekkah
Steinwand



Lindsay
Harris

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IT'S TIME TO TALK BACK!

Did you know that 88% of consumers read online reviews before they work with a local business? Further, of that amount, 39% of consumers read online reviews on a regular basis! What that means to us is this - great client service isn't good enough! **The attorneys and staff at Swier Law Firm strive for exceptional client service 100% of the time.**

We are proud of our client service commitment and appreciate the trust you place in our law firm. One of the greatest compliments you could offer us is an online review. Each review is read and appreciated. Do you have a moment to review us? It's quite easy and can be completed with a Google account at SwierLaw.com/review or at avvo.com/review-your-lawyer. Thank you in advance for your time!

Source: Searchengineland.com

