



From The Desk of Victoria L. Collier, CELA

CELEBRATING OUR FATHERS

If you provide care for a loved one, own a business, or simply manage the financial health of a family member then you truly understand and appreciate the value of a good CPA.

Our office relies on outstanding CPAs that we work with at The Elder & Disability Law Firm of Victoria L. Collier, PC - Alicyn McLeod, Susan Barnes,

Gary Fortier, Neil Galanti, Joel Shapiro.

We are so grateful for these very thoughtful, and knowledgeable CPA's who dedicate their financial excellence to our clients to ensure the best financial future for everyone who comes into our office.

Call **404-370-0696** to experience

the financial possibilities and to learn how you can receive tax-free benefits for your family and income for life.

To Your Health And Happiness,

Victoria L. Collier

Victoria L. Collier, CELA*

The Elder & Disability Law Firm
*Certified Elder Law Attorney

Did You Know?

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

The law firm team will be participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's in September. To raise funds for the law firm team, we will be holding a **bake sale in the lobby of our building on June 22nd from 10am - 2pm.** We welcome any contributions or purchase of goodies! We also welcome walkers to join our team!

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The Elder & Disability Law Firm
of
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What Does It Mean To “Protect Your Family”?

At community presentations we provide, I always ask the audience, “what is important to you?” Predictably, people respond with, “I want to protect my assets.” I then ask, “FROM what or whom and FOR what or whom?” Almost as if in stereo, I hear, “from the government and for my family, for my children.” But what does “protecting my family” mean?

I love being outside walking my dog or riding bikes with my children, who are now seven. It never fails that I see a child riding a bike wearing a helmet. There can be endless discussions about how we didn’t wear helmets when we were children, but that’s not the point here. **The point is, just as soon as I see a child with a helmet, I see the parent trailing behind riding without a helmet.** What is the logic there?

Is it that a child might errantly ride in front of a car and the helmet will protect him? Is it that parents have more sense to stay out of harm? That completely ignores the fact that drivers of cars could be driving recklessly and hit either of you on bikes regardless of how careful you are being. How does it help the child to have a parent who has been hit and now has a brain injury because the parent didn’t feel the need to wear a helmet? What is it teaching our children that they must wear a helmet but adults don’t?

I see the same type of situation in the law



firm when doing estate planning. People want to protect their assets for their children, but ignore the advice that will provide true asset protection. The question that must be asked to accomplish asset protection is: *What erodes our assets?* The most common reason for aging adults is: Long-term care expenses. But, people don’t want to hear this because they think of long-term care as nursing home care. Yet, **long-term care also includes assistance at home, independent living facilities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.** While family members still provide the bulk of the care, many people spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for years and years as their health declines.

There are a number of ways to protect families (i.e. protecting assets).

The recommended option is to do pre-planning to be able to cover the cost of long-term care (possibly even without buying traditional long-term care insurance policies).

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Protecting Your Family

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If you cannot afford to spend \$10,000 per month on long-term care with your current income and assets, for an extended period of time, then you should consider a pre-planning option.

Collier Scott Financial Solutions, LLC, 404-370-0696, can assist you in assessing your situation and the available recommended options.

Another pre-planning option is to transfer assets, to include the home place, into a proper asset protection trust. This will protect those assets from creditors, to include Medicaid if completed at least five years prior to going into a nursing home and applying for Medicaid. There are many different types of trusts, however, so it is very important to work with someone who understands your family needs, your goals, and the laws, to include tax laws, Veteran's Benefits, and Medicaid.

So, don't just say you love your children and would do anything to protect them. SHOW them by putting the helmet on yourself and implementing the appropriate estate plan, not just the bare minimum to get you by.

Visit ElderLawGeorgia.com to learn more about the freedom that you're entitled to.

NEW Durable Power of Attorney Law in Georgia

On July 1, 2017, a new law affecting Georgia durable powers of attorney (for financial matters) will go into effect. The Uniform Power of Attorney Act is designed to minimize financial fraud and exploitation. Thus, "general" Powers allowing an agent to "do anything the principal could do" may no longer be accepted by banks and other financial institutions. Banks do not have to accept any power of attorney; however, we have been assured that if a customer presents a power of attorney on the new statutory form, the banks will honor it unless there is evidence of fraud, misrepresentation or undue influence over the principal.

Although the statutory form, along with the Georgia code (law), is much better than the one before it, it does not specifically include protections for seniors who are aging and want to take measures to protect their assets in the event they could qualify for government assistance programs, like Veterans Benefits or Medicaid. In order to completely protect yourself, your new power of attorney must include certain "Special Instructions." Thus, a "standard" form, even on the new statutory form, will not be enough for most seniors who care about protecting their families and their assets.

The Elder & Disability Law Firm of Victoria L. Collier, PC will provide a new statutory power of attorney, with appropriate special instructions, at a **33% DISCOUNT OFF** our regular rates for advising, drafting, and executing a financial power of attorney during the months of June, July and August. Call 404-370-0696 and speak with a Client Services Representative and tell them, *"I'd like the new statutory financial power of attorney."*

Celebrating Our Fathers!

Jaina Reed

My dad is one of 14 and grew up in a family that truly knows the value of making the most of everything they are given. He has instilled in me the value of resilience and finding beauty in every circumstance encountered in life.



Melanie Richardson

I am grateful that my Dad has always encouraged my curiosity and sense of adventure. Happy Father's Day, Dad!



Kimberly Partain

When I was a child, there was a large round stain on the wall behind our couch. Every day my daddy would come home from work, take off his muddy steel toed boots, and sit on the couch. He'd fall asleep waiting on dinner and his head would lean back against the wall. The stain was formed of sweat and dirt and it would not come off.

It grew over time, but my mother never commented on it or asked him to stop leaning his dirty head against the wall. My dad worked very hard for our family from before the sun was up until it set every day. He would tell me as he sat on the couch resting, "Little Kim, work smart not hard." His hard work, support and guidance provided me the opportunity to work smart in a profession I love. And, for that, I am grateful every day.

Victoria L. Collier

My father loved to fish and go to the beach. This picture is one of my favorite memories because it really captures the solid, but humble man my father was.

Happy Father's Day in Heaven!



Happy Father's Day!

