



THE LEGACY PLANNERS P.C.

PERSONAL FAMILY LAWYER®

Your trusted family advisor.

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Planning a Trip? Protect Your Children with a Kids Protection Plan®

As Spring Break approaches, followed by summer, you're likely focused on planning the perfect getaway with your children - booking flights, reserving hotels, and mapping out exciting activities. But there's one crucial aspect of travel planning that often gets overlooked: ensuring your children's safety and care if something unexpected happens to you during your trip. While no one wants to think about emergencies during vacation, having proper protection in place lets you truly relax and enjoy making memories together.

Let's explore why having a Kids Protection Plan® ("KPP") in place before traveling is essential and what steps you can take to protect your children. Please note: most lawyers, even at the top estate planning firms, often make at least one of 6 common mistakes that the KPP is designed to address, when naming legal guardians for children in an estate plan.

The Hidden Risks of Traveling Without Protection

When you're caught up in vacation planning excitement, it's easy to focus only on the fun ahead. However, traveling presents unique risks and scenarios you need to consider. If you become incapacitated in a car accident or experience any other emergency while away from home, what would happen to your children in those critical first hours or days? Without proper legal documentation, your children could be temporarily taken into the care of strangers or social services until the proper authorities can determine who has the legal authority to care for them.

This becomes even more complicated when traveling internationally. Different countries have varying laws about child custody and care in emergency situations. Without clear legal documentation designating temporary guardians, your children could face significant trauma while authorities work through bureaucratic processes to determine their care. Even domestic travel can present challenges if you're incapacitated in another state, as local authorities may not immediately recognize out-of-state guardianship arrangements without proper documentation.

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Essential Components of Protection While Traveling

A comprehensive KPP, which we create for you as part of the Life & Legacy Planning® process, provides crucial legal documentation and instructions that activate immediately if something happens to you. This includes designation of temporary guardians who can care for your children until your long-term guardians can arrive, as well as detailed information about your children's medical needs, allergies, medications, and daily routines.

When you work with us to create a KPP, we include several key components that many parents overlook. First, you'll receive ID cards that list emergency contacts that can care for your children in your absence. Second, we'll create medical power of attorney forms that allow designated caregivers to authorize treatment for your kids if they need medical care if needed. Third, your KPP will include temporary guardianship documentation so your kids are never taken into the care of strangers, while the authorities locate the long-term guardians for your children. Finally, if there is anyone you would never want raising your children, we document that (confidentially), too.

Beyond these basics, your KPP also includes detailed information about your children's daily lives - their favorite foods, bedtime routines, fears or anxieties, and comfort items. This helps caregivers maintain normalcy during a stressful situation. You can also include passwords for electronic devices, social media accounts, and educational platforms your children might need to access.

Take Action Before You Travel

Before heading off on your Spring Break adventure, schedule time with me and we will help you think through all the potential issues that could arise so that you can make the best decisions for you and your kids. We'll start by carefully selecting both local and long-distance temporary guardians who can respond quickly in an emergency, considering factors like their proximity to your vacation destination, their ability to travel on short notice, and their familiarity with your children's needs.

Then, we'll support you in creating an emergency response plan that outlines exactly what should happen in various scenarios. This includes who should be contacted first, in what order, and what immediate actions they should take.

Importantly, your plan should be easily accessible to designated guardians and include clear instructions for first responders or authorities who might need to reference it in an emergency. We will help you with this, by making sure you have access to the documents you need, and ensuring your chosen guardians know exactly how to access the

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information and documents they need. We will also be here to support them in case of an emergency so they know exactly what to do.

Making these arrangements isn't about dwelling on worst-case scenarios – it's about creating peace of mind so you can fully enjoy your vacation. With proper protection in place, you can focus on creating wonderful memories with your children instead of worrying about "what-if" scenarios. Think of it as travel insurance for your children's wellbeing - something you hope you'll never need but will be incredibly grateful to have if an emergency arises.

Your Next Steps for Peace of Mind

As your Personal Family Lawyer® Firm, we support you to create a comprehensive Life & Legacy Plan that includes a Kids Protection Plan so your children are always protected, no matter where your travels take you. Take the first step today by booking a Life & Legacy Planning Session, where you'll get educated on what will happen if you become incapacitated and when you die so you can make the very best decisions for your loved ones. From that place of empowerment, we'll then work together to create your comprehensive Life & Legacy Plan that gives you peace of mind, knowing you've done all you can for the people you love most.

Book a call today to get started:

<https://calendly.com/lauren-tlppc>

This article is a service of The Legacy Planners P.C., a Personal Family Lawyer® Firm. We don't just draft documents; we ensure you make informed and empowered decisions about life and death, for yourself and the people you love. That's why we offer a Life & Legacy Planning® Session, during which you will get more financially organized than you've ever been before and make all the best choices for the people you love. You can begin by calling our office today to schedule a Life & Legacy Planning Session.

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