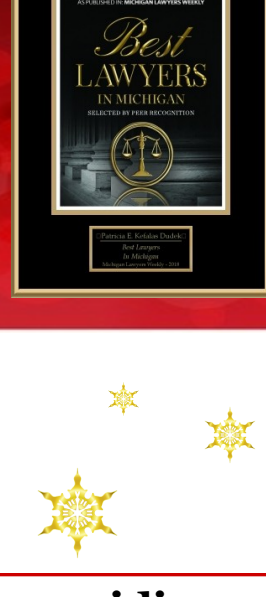


Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates

**Passionate Advice and Advocacy
for all Stages of Life**

December 2018



Charitable Giving

Tis the Season for Giving, so we are providing a

Charitable Vehicle Guide

With 5 approaches to charitable giving

This guide provides an overview of five methods of charitable giving. It is intended to help you understand which approach might be best suited for your financial and philanthropic goals.

Putting cash in the mail

Message from The Federal Trade Commission

We've been warning you about scammers asking you to pay with gift cards or by wiring money. Scammers love getting you to pay that way because they can get your money fast and disappear. It's almost as good as getting you to send cold, hard cash. Which must have occurred to them, too, because some scammers are now going low-tech and asking people to send cash in the mail. Sometimes they even tell people to divide the cash between pages of a magazine.

According to the FTC's new Data Spotlight, people 70 and older are reporting losing cash to scammers who pretend to be a friend or family member in trouble. (You know the calls: "Grandma, I'm in jail. I need you to send me money for bail.") Or some variation on that theme).

—> [Click Here to For the Full Article](#)



Estate Planning for a Vacation Home

If you are lucky enough to own a vacation home, then you need to figure out what will happen to it after you are gone. Many parents hope to keep vacation homes in the family, but guaranteeing that can be tricky.

While meant to be fun and relaxing places to get away from everyday life, vacation houses can cause problems between siblings after their parents pass away. Some siblings may want to use the house, while others may need cash and want to sell. There may be disputes over who pays maintenance costs or when different families can use the house.

—> [Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Michigan Paid Sick Time and Minimum Wage Laws Amended

The Earned Sick Time Act ballot initiative, enacted into law by the Michigan legislature in September, is amended and on its way to Governor Rick Snyder's desk. Changes were pre-negotiated with the governor's team, so his signature is expected. Likewise, the minimum wage ballot initiative enacted into law by the Michigan legislature is also amended and expected to be signed by the governor.

The paid sick leave law, now known as the Paid Medical Leave Act, was substantially amended to make it workable for both employers and employees. There will likely be a legal challenge to the amended law based on the timing of these amendments. But pending any ruling by a court, if signed by the governor, the amended law will go into effect at the end of March of 2019.

Michigan's Paid Medical Leave Act now applies only to employers with 50 or more employees (instead of all employers) and mandates up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per year instead of 72 hours. Exempt employees are no longer covered by the act. Also excluded are private sector employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

—> [Click Here to Read Further](#)

HAVE A TRUST? NOW FILL IT UP!

If you have a living trust, you probably think that you will avoid probate. Well, that may be true, but having a stack of documents you call a trust is not enough to do the job, you have to now put assets in your trust. Imagine your living trust is a bucket. Once you sign your trust, you have an empty bucket, but you can now start filling it with your stuff.

How do you fill your bucket? Let's go over three types of assets people usually have. If you have other assets not on this list, I can walk you through how to put those assets into your trust.

—> [Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Michigan Combined Application Project (MiCAP) Policy Change Effective 1/1/2019

The MiCAP program is intended to serve individuals who are in a FAP case by themselves and receive SSI as their income in a more streamlined process. Eligible individuals for MiCAP have a three-year certification program and receive a standard FAP benefits.

Effective 1/1/19, the new benefit amounts will be:

Having less than \$1,000 in monthly shelter costs = \$100 FAP benefit a month

Having more than \$1,000 in monthly shelter costs = \$190 FAP benefit a month

—> [Click Here for More Information](#)

Cleaning Out Your Legal & Financial File Cabinet

A Message from Grimaldi & Yeung LLP

Over the years we gather paper clippings, documents and bank statements. We try to discard some of this ever increasing pile. It is difficult knowing which financial and personal paperwork you need to keep or what to discard. To help you with this difficult task, here is a suggested list and timeline for keeping and/or shredding your important documents. Scan copies to be produced when needed for individuals who have limited storage space.

—> [Click Here to Read the List](#)

National Health Law Program Says Texas Judge's Decision on Affordable Care Act Is 'Fatally Flawed'

National Health Law Program Executive Director Elizabeth G. Taylor said it was crucial for people to remain confident and continue enrolling the ACA marketplaces.

"It is important for people to continue enrolling through the ACA marketplaces. The current enrollment period ends at 12 a.m. pacific time on Dec. 15, and we are confident that ACA coverage will be effective in 2019," Taylor said. "The ACA is still the law of the land. The district court judge in Texas has issued a wobbly legal decision that does not shut down the law, and the judge's action will be appealed."

—> [Click Here for the Full Statement](#)

IRS reminds those with disabilities of new ABLER account benefits

The Internal Revenue Service wants to remind those with disabilities that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (2017) made major changes to Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts. Eligible individuals may now put more money into their ABLE account and also roll money from their qualified tuition programs (529 plans) into their ABLE accounts. And certain contributions made to ABLE accounts by low- and moderate-income workers may now qualify for the [Saver's Credit](#).

Normally, contributions totaling up to the annual gift-tax exclusion amount, currently \$15,000, may be made to an ABLE account each year for the benefit of an eligible person with a disability, known as a designated beneficiary. Starting in 2018, if the beneficiary works, the beneficiary can also contribute part, or all, of their income to their ABLE account.

—> [Click Here to See the Full Notice](#)

8 Questions and Answers About Being an Agent Under a Power of Attorney

You have just been appointed as an agent, or "attorney-in-fact," under a durable power of attorney, a document that, for most people, is even more useful than a will. Your appointment allows you to act in place of the "principal" — the person executing the power of attorney -- for financial purposes when and if that person ever becomes incapacitated. Here are answers to eight frequently asked questions about the agent's duties, responsibilities and powers under the document.

—> [Click Here to See the FAQ & Answers](#)

Understanding Long-Term Care

Addressing the potential threat of long-term care expenses may be one of the biggest financial challenges for individuals who are developing a retirement strategy. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that 70% of people over age 65 can expect to need long-term care services at some point in their lives. So understanding the various types of long-term care services—and what those services may cost—is critical as you consider your retirement approach.

What Is Long-Term Care? Long-term care is not a single activity. It refers to a variety of medical and non-medical services needed by those who have a chronic illness or disability—most commonly associated with aging.

Long-term care can include everything from assistance with activities of daily living—help dressing, bathing, using the bathroom, or even driving to the store—to more intensive therapeutic and medical care requiring the services of skilled medical personnel.

Long-term care may be provided at home, at a community center, in an assisted living facility, or in a skilled nursing home. And long-term care is not exclusively for the elderly; it is possible to need long-term care at any age.

—> [Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

5 Things to Know to Reduce Your Tax on Capital Gains

Although it is often said that nothing is certain except death and taxes, the one tax you may be able to avoid or minimize most through planning is the tax on capital gains.

—> [Click Here to Read Further](#)

www.pekdadvocacy.com

www.pattidudek.typepad.com/



Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates

30445 Northwestern Highway, Suite 310 Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Tel: 248-254-3462 Fax: 248-928-9233
pdudek@pekdadvocacy.com

If you would like to add anyone to or be removed from the e-mail list please notify the editor. dwelsh@pekdadvocacy.com

This e-newsletter is a publication of Patricia E. Dudek & Associates. The legal information presented in this e-newsletter is intended for information purposes only and is not a substitute for consultation with a legal professional.