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Upcoming Seminar &
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OFFICE LOCATIONS

Multiple office locations for your convenience.

Virginia Beach (Main Office)

500 Viking Drive, Suite 202

Norfolk Office

319 W. 21st St., Suite B

Chesapeake Office

1545 Crossways Blvd., Suite 250

Suffolk Office

3345 Bridge Road, Suite 916

Newport News Office

11815 Fountain Way, Suite 300

Phone: 757-530-7011

Fax: 757-233-3600

UPCOMING SEMINAR & WEBINARS



PLAN NOW TO PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES

Wednesday, November 30th at 2:00 PM



WHY WILLS ARE OBSOLETE

Thursday, November 17th at 1:00 PM

at Our Virginia Beach Office
(500 Viking Drive, STE 202)

Virginia Beach, VA

DURING OUR SEMINARS, YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to protect your home & assets from the costs of long-term care; Costly misconceptions about planning for your senior years.
- How to plan your estate should you become physically or mentally incapacitated.
- How to protect your family from losing their inheritance to greedy in-laws, divorce, lawsuits, creditors, and government claims!
- How to protect your valuable IRAs (and retirement plans) so they may later provide much-needed retirement income for your loved ones.
- Why wills don't protect assets from nursing home costs and how certain trusts can provide powerful asset protection.

Call us today to register at **757-530-7011** or register online at www.alperinlaw.com

NOVEMBER 2022

Give us a call!

757-530-7011

www.alperinlaw.com | Hours: 9:00-5:00 M-F

Your Alperin Law Monthly Newsletter

FROM SCOTT'S DESK



Celebrating Veterans Day!

Alperin Law salutes all of our Veteran clients! Whether you are former or retired military, we thank you for your service to your country. As Alperin Law clients, we want to help you in any way that we can. One of the services we offer is assistance with VA Disability Claims.

Veterans are eligible for disability benefits if they have a physical or mental disability connected to their military service or a pre-existing condition that was made worse by their military service. Benefits provide cash compensation as well as access to medical care.

After you apply for VA disability benefits, patience is key. As of 2021, it took the VA 134.4 days to make a decision on newly filed claims. However, this number is subject to variables such as:

- The type of claim you file
- How many service-connected disabilities you've listed and the severity of your overall condition
- How difficult it is to obtain the evidence needed to evaluate your claim

Processing Your Initial Application for Disability Benefits

Initial applications for VA disability benefits can be filed online, by mail, or in person. The general process for evaluating an initial claim is as follows:

For service members with children, the parts of an estate plan that establish the care and keeping of your minor children are especially important. You and your partner will want to decide who will take on the care of your children in the event of your death; a will can specify legal guardians and more complex plans can separately identify a trustee to handle financial affairs regarding your child's inheritance until a specified age.

Claim received

You'll be notified when your claim is received by the Regional Office, either with an on-screen message, an eBenefits web portal notification, or a mailed letter.

Initial review

A VA representative will look over your application and determine if any additional evidence is needed. The VA has a duty to assist veterans in preparing their claims for review, which may include requesting medical records, service treatment records, personnel records, and VA treatment records, as well as scheduling medical examinations.

Decision

After all of the necessary evidence has been gathered from you, your healthcare providers, and any government agencies, the VA will review your application and make a decision.

Notification and claim completion

The VA will prepare a packet that explains your claim decision and send it to you via the U.S. mail. This should occur within seven to 10 days of the decision.

After you've submitted your application for disability benefits, you do not need to take any additional action until you've been contacted by the VA. If you receive a letter asking for more information, answer it promptly. If you are notified that you must attend a C&P exam, be sure you do not miss your appointment. Your claim will be automatically denied if you do not attend your C&P exam.

You can check the status of your VA claim at any time. This can be done online or by calling the VA's national toll-free phone number at 800-827-1000. The same methods can be used to check the status of any other

VA benefits you've applied for, including pension benefits, automobile or clothing allowance claims, Aid & Attendance benefits, and GI Bill claims.

Appealing the Decision

If your initial application for VA disability benefits is rejected, do not give up. Many claims that are initially denied are won on appeal. You also have the right to appeal if you've been given a disability rating that you believe does not reflect the seriousness of your condition.

The VA's decision review process gives you three options: a Supplemental Claim, Higher-Level Review, or Board Appeal. A Supplemental Claim requires additional evidence; a Higher-Level Review lets a senior-level reviewer take a look at your case to determine if the decision has an error or is based on an incorrect interpretation of the law; and a Board Appeal is a review of your case by a Veterans Law Judge at the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) in Washington, D.C.

A veterans benefits lawyer can help you evaluate your claim and determine which appeal option is most likely to be successful. There is no charge for legal representation unless you win your appeal, so there is no need to let cost concerns keep you from building the strongest possible case. An evaluation of 2020 appeals revealed that 40.9% of appeals were approved with a lawyer while just 26.2% of appeals were approved with no representative—a statistic that proves seeking legal guidance is the smart choice.

Do You Need to Speak With a Veterans Benefits Lawyer?

If you need to speak with an experienced veterans benefits lawyer, please contact us online, or call our Virginia Beach office to schedule your free consultation.

Actress Anne Heche Passes, Her Children to Dispute over Her Estate in Court



By Associate Attorney, Jonathan Hughes

I was reading the September 2020 Rolling Stone magazine when I saw a headline that stated: “Anne Heche Estate War Looms as Ex Claims She Left Him in Charge, Not ‘Estranged’ Son.” In tragic recent news, actress Anne Heche was removed from life support and pronounced dead on August 14th. She had been hospitalized a week earlier after losing control of her vehicle; the car she was driving left the road and crashed into a Los Angeles home. The tragic crash left her brain dead and on life support, but Ms. Heche was able to donate her organs in accordance with her wishes.

Ms. Heche is survived by two children: Homer Laffoon, her 20-year-old son from her first marriage and Atlas, her 13-year-old son she shared with her ex-boyfriend, James Tupper. Homer claimed that Heche died without a will, and has petitioned the court to become the administrator of Heche’s estate. However, Tupper, Atlas’s father, alleges that he has a copy of her will naming him as Heche’s executor. Furthermore, Tupper claims that Heche and Laffoon had become estranged because Homer

had dropped out of college and was unemployed. Tupper states that he alone holds the best interests of the estate. Until the court resolves this issue, the children’s inheritance will be tied up.

Probate: Expensive, Public, & Time-Consuming

This case brings about the reminder of a similar probate case: the estate of Chadwick Boseman, the Black Panther star who died intestate, leaving his widow & parents in a high-profile battle for his \$3.8 million estate. Two years of extensive attorney’s fees and probate expenses were paid out before Mr. Boseman’s widow finally agreed to evenly divide the remainder of Boseman’s \$2.3 million estate between herself and his parents. The question remains: Were those Mr. Boseman’s wishes? Knowing that his cancer was terminal, he could have established a trust-based estate plan, ensuring his desires would be fulfilled upon his death. A trust could have avoided the need for lengthy, expensive, and very public probate by Boseman’s heirs. Unfortunately, Ms. Heche’s heirs now find themselves in the same predicament.

We Can Help You with Your Plan

No family wants to have its affairs turned into tabloid fodder. No family hopes to spend days, weeks, and even years in costly court battles, like the families of Anne Heche or Chadwick Boseman. Even heirs who have amicable relationships don’t want to strain those relationships by trying to guess what their loved one intended to do with his or her assets.

At Alperin Law, we begin our estate planning process by establishing a personal relationship with each client. We seek to learn about your family’s dynamics and whether the client has any heirs that may need assistance with managing an inheritance to help you craft the best plan for your family. By creating a trust, a client with Alperin Law can ensure that probate is avoided and that you maintain control – even after your passing – over who will have access to and responsibility of carrying out the trust.

Don’t let your incapacity or death spark a family feud. If you have not taken action to establish your own trust, now is the time to do so. Reach out to Alperin Law to see if you qualify for a free initial consultation regarding your estate planning.

Meet Our New Associate Attorney

Jonathan Hughes

Jonathan is the newest associate attorney at Alperin Law, but he brings a world of experience. Jonathan has lived around the world as both the son of a military family and also as a retired Navy officer himself. Jonathan earned his aerospace engineering degree from Mississippi State University before joining the Navy. After earning his wings of gold, Jonathan flew military helicopters and later taught flight instruction to military students. During his 22 years of service, Jonathan also earned an Executive Masters of Business Administration from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Masters in Human Resources Management from Webster University. Most recently, Jonathan has acquired his Juris Doctorate at the Regent University School of Law, garnering a book award (highest grade) in Negotiations along the way.

While flying a desk in his final years in the Navy, Jonathan enjoyed the experience of being a policy expert in a particular field and meeting with the admirals and senior civilian leaders above him to explain those leaders' options. The highlight for Jonathan was briefing the head of the US Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Roughead, in his Pentagon headquarters. Jonathan determined that after he retired, he wanted to continue to provide a similar service to Estate Planning clients.

Jonathan interned at a variety of law offices as a student, finally settling down as an intern with Alperin Law. Now, with over 18 months of apprenticeship on both the estate administration side and the estate planning side, Jonathan is parlaying that hands-on education into valuable guidance for our clients.



In his free time, Jonathan enjoys spending time with his wife, Michelle, and four boys. In fact, this winter, Jonathan will attempt to coach his rambunctious twins in basketball, his favorite sport. Jonathan also enjoys running and triathlon, and it is not surprising that this Navy pilot has more than a little competitive attitude when it comes to racing.

Recipe:

Yummy Sweet Potato Casserole



A traditional holiday table wouldn't be complete with a sweet potato casserole. Perfectly flavored and topped with an irresistible pecan topping, this is the only sweet potato casserole recipe you'll ever need.

INGREDIENTS

Sweet Potatoes:

- 4 cups peeled, cubed sweet potatoes
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup milk
- 4 tablespoons butter, softened
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon salt

Pecan Topping:

- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ⅓ cup all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- ½ cup chopped pecans

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).

2. Prepare sweet potatoes: Put sweet potatoes in a medium saucepan and cover with water. Cook over medium-high heat until tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Drain and transfer to a large bowl.
3. Mash drained sweet potatoes with a fork. Add eggs; mix until well combined. Add sugar, milk, butter, vanilla, and salt; mix until smooth. Transfer to a 9x13-inch baking dish.
4. Make topping: Mix brown sugar and flour together in a medium bowl. Cut in butter with a pastry cutter until mixture is coarse and looks like peas; don't overmix. Stir in pecans. Sprinkle topping over sweet potato mixture.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until topping is lightly browned, about 30 minutes.

Recipe inspired by www.allrecipes.com