ISSUE #19

Monthly Newsletter

LEGAL JOURNEYS, LLC
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Happy 250th, America!

This month, America celebrates something pretty incredible—250 years.

Two hundred and fifty years of families putting down roots, building homes, chasing dreams, overcoming hardships, and creating legacies. It's a reminder that while history is often told through wars, presidents, and important dates, it's really built one family at a time.

It makes me wonder... Two hundred and fifty years from now, what will someone know about us?

Maybe they won't know the recipes we always made for the Fourth of July or who won every family card game. They may never hear the stories of beach vacations, backyard cookouts, or sticky popsicles on hot summer afternoons... But they'll know they came from someone who loved their family enough to think ahead.

Wherever this July finds you—surrounded by family, making new memories, or quietly remembering someone you miss—I hope you'll pause and appreciate the little moments. They have a funny way of becoming the ones we treasure most.

None of us knows what the next 250 years will hold. We can't predict the future, but we can prepare for it.

Estate planning isn't just about documents. It's about people. It's about giving your family clarity instead of confusion, peace instead of conflict, and one final reminder of how deeply they were loved.

So this Independence Day, celebrate well. Take the pictures. Stay outside a little longer. Tell the old family stories one more time. Then make sure you've protected the people who matter most.

Because a legacy isn't measured by how long your name is remembered. It's measured by how deeply your love continues to care for the people you leave behind.

Legal Journeys Team - XO

In this newsletter you can expect:

We live together, but we aren't married...

What About My Kids?

The Most Common Question We Get Asked

Upcoming Events & Staff Spotlight

Joke of the Month + TLDR

The Law Doesn't Automatically Protect the Person You Love Most

Love doesn't always come with a marriage certificate, and neither does commitment. Many couples build incredible lives together without ever legally marrying. You may share a home, split expenses, raise children, or have spent decades creating a future side by side. In every way that matters, you're family.

The problem? The law may not see it that way.

Without the proper legal planning, the person you trust most could be left without the authority to help you when you need them most. While many people assume "everything will just go to my partner," that's simply not how the law works. Here are a few of the biggest risks unmarried couples face:

Your partner may not be able to make medical decisions for you
If you become incapacitated, hospitals may look to your closest biological relatives—not your partner—for important healthcare decisions. Without the right legal documents, the person who knows your wishes best may have little or no authority.

The life you've built together may not stay together
If your home, bank accounts, retirement accounts, or other assets aren't titled correctly or don't have updated beneficiary designations, they may not pass to your partner. Instead, state law could direct those assets to family members, regardless of your intentions.

Living together doesn't automatically create legal rights
One of the biggest misconceptions we hear is that couples become "common law married" after living together for a certain number of years. In reality, very few states recognize common law marriage, and even where it's allowed, the legal requirements are much more complicated than most people realize.

A will alone may not be enough
Protecting an unmarried partner often requires more than just a will. Powers of attorney, healthcare directives, beneficiary reviews, and proper asset ownership all work together to ensure your wishes can actually be carried out when they're needed most.

The good news is that every one of these risks can be addressed with thoughtful planning. Estate planning isn't just about paperwork—it's about protecting the person you love and giving both of you peace of mind, no matter what the future holds.

Don't leave your relationship at the mercy of default state laws. Take a few minutes to learn how you can protect the life you've built together by reading our full article. Then, if you're ready, we'd be honored to help you create a plan tailored to your unique situation.

👉 **Read the full article:**
https://legaljourneys.com/estate-planning-for-unmarried-couples-protecting-the-person-you-love/

Ready to protect the person who means the most to you? Schedule a consultation with our team today, and let's build a plan that gives both of you confidence for whatever tomorrow may bring.

- Levi

Call or Click for your appointment today!

www.legaljourneys.com	256-850-3431

What About My Kids?

If Something Happened to You, Who Would Raise Your Kids?

It's one of the hardest questions a parent can ask—but one of the most important.

Most parents already know who they'd want to raise their children if something happened to them. But **unless you've legally documented your wishes, the person you have in mind may not be the person who ends up caring for your kids.** In fact, the court follows its own process when deciding who should step in, and that process may not reflect your wishes.

That's why a Kids Protection Plan® is so important. It goes beyond naming guardians in a will by **helping ensure your children are cared for immediately by people you know, love, and trust**—not left waiting while decisions are made.

And don't forget about your adult children. Once they turn 19, you no longer have the automatic legal authority to make medical decisions or access important health information—**even if they're still living at home or away at college.** Simple documents like a healthcare directive, HIPAA authorization, and power of attorney can make all the difference during an emergency.

The best time to have these conversations is before you need them. Talk with the people you trust, make your wishes known, and put a plan in place that protects your family.

Your children deserve more than good intentions—they deserve a clear plan. Contact our team today to learn how a Kids Protection Plan® and the right legal documents can give your family peace of mind, no matter what the future holds.

Ready to protect what matters most?
Schedule a free 15-minute consult here:
www.legaljourneys.com/consultation

Already have a Kids Protection Plan?
They need to be updated **every year.** Make sure yours is up to date so it works if you need it. If you're not sure, or if it's time to update, **simply reply to this email.** It goes to a real person and I will be happy to help you!

Don't wait until it's too late. Schedule today so you can have peace of mind like so many of our clients.

Special Dates

3rd - Office Closed

4th - Independence Day!

9th - Summer Break. Family Safe! Event
PaPPo's Pizzeria - Huntsville
6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be having a special event called **Summer Break. Family Safe!** this month. Learn how to protect your greatest asset- **your children** - in this new and informative seminar on July 9th at PaPPo's Pizzeria in Huntsville. Register at: https://legaljourneys.com/seminar/

Funding Spotlight, To-Do, & More...

We love questions—and we encourage our clients to ask them.

One of the most common questions that we get asked is **"Do I need to update my estate plan?"**

The answer is: **probably.**

Marriage, divorce, new children or grandchildren, buying a home, moving to a new state, changes in your finances, or even changes in the law can all affect whether your plan still accomplishes your goals.

And if you have a trust, **making sure it's properly funded is just as important** as having it in the first place.

Even if nothing major has changed in your life, **it's a good idea to review your estate plan every few years.** The people you've named may no longer be the best choice, your assets may have changed, or your wishes may simply look different today than they did when your documents were first signed. We offer complimentary reviews every 3 years. Changes come with a small fee for minor changes.

An estate plan isn't something you create once and forget. It should grow and change as your life does. If it's been a few years since you created or reviewed your plan, now is a great time to make sure it still protects the people and the legacy that matter most.

We're excited to introduce Abbie, one of the friendly faces on our team! Originally from Dora, Alabama, Abbie was born in Heidelberg, Germany and graduated from Corner High School before continuing her education at Calhoun Community College.

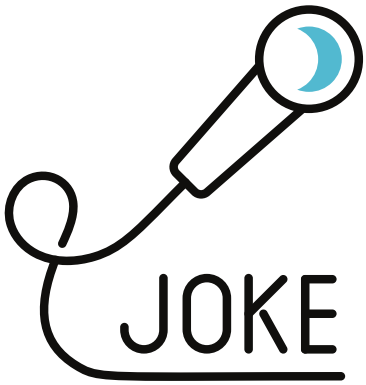
When she's not at work, you'll likely find her getting creative with crafts, enjoying a walk, or spending time with her 10-year-old miniature poodle, Linda. If there's macaroni and cheese or a good sandwich on the menu, she's one happy camper!

We're so thankful to have Abbie as part of our team and can't wait for you to get to know her even better!

Client To-Dos

Do you have a Kids Protection Plan in place for your minor children? **If it was created on or before July 2025, it may be time to re-sign your short-term guardian nominations** to keep everything current.

Simply reply to this email and we'll help you get that taken care of.



Joke of the Month

I used to hate facial hair...

Then it grew on me.

Why couldn't the sesame seed stop talking?

He was on a roll.

Do you have great jokes to share? Submit them to brandy@legaljourneys.com!

TLDR

- **Respond to this email** with anything you'd like us to know. We **love** hearing from you!
- Living together doesn't automatically give your partner the legal rights that come with marriage—**but the right estate plan can.**
- Is your **Kids Protection Plan** up to date? If you're not sure or don't have one, **respond to this email & I'll help!**
- Think it's time to review your plan, or have major life changes happening? Give us a call or **respond to this email & let's chat.** We want to make sure your family stays **out of court and conflict.**
- Send us your best jokes! We love hearing from you.