ISSUE #18

Monthly Newsletter

LEGAL JOURNEYS, LLC
June 2026 ✦

Sweet Summertime

Summer has arrived in North Alabama. You can tell by the immediate days of showers we have had! It's not summer unless you get days of rain and intermittent sunshine! My plants are certainly happy!

Summer is a time to slow down. It's a time to relax by the pool, on the boat, or at the lake. It's a time to travel to new (or familiar) places, kick back on the shore, and everything smells a bit like coconut and sunscreen. It's a time for late, warm nights, family fun, cookouts, and yard games.

Personally, I want to have a 1990s summer. Before social media, before everything felt so complicated, when the radio was turned up and the anxiety was down. I want my kids to experience drinking from the water hose, playing in the sprinklers, and sticky popsicles dripping down their little hands. I want them to worry less about their phones and more about spending quality time with friends.

What about you? What do you envision for this summer season? Do you have fond memories of summers past, maybe looking forward to the future and making plans for vacations to create more memories? Maybe you're mourning the loss of a loved one and time seems to stand still. No matter where you're at this summer, we are here for you. We are praying for you, believing that the best is yet to come.

And in the midst of the right now, while you're still alive and have capacity, it's time to make sure you have a plan in place for whatever the future holds. Let us help you make sure you're fully planned and that no matter what happens, your family will be covered. They'll be able to continue to make new memories, not worrying about making decisions for you, because you've already made them.

Legal Journeys Team - XO

In this newsletter you can expect:

When Your Kids Are Legally Adults - What Parents Need to Know

Have You Had "The Talk" With Your Family?

The Most Common Mistake We See

Upcoming Events & Staff Spotlight

Joke of the Month + TLDR

The Day Your Child Becomes an Adult: What Every Parent Should Know

Many parents spend months preparing their child for college—shopping for dorm essentials, helping with class schedules, and making sure they have everything they need to succeed. But there's one important transition that often gets overlooked.

Once a child reaches the age of majority, they become a legal adult. While you'll always be their parent, **the law no longer automatically gives you access to their medical information, financial accounts, or the ability to make decisions on their behalf in an emergency.**

This reality catches many families by surprise.

Recently, I spoke with a mother who was shocked to learn she could no longer schedule doctor's appointments for her 19-year-old daughter. In another situation, a college student was involved in a serious car accident. Her mother, who lived in another state, desperately tried to get updates from the hospital—but due to privacy laws, medical staff couldn't share information with her.

These situations are more common than most people realize.

Essential Legal Documents for Every Young Adult

Whether your child is heading off to college, entering the workforce, serving in the military, or simply starting adulthood, there are a few key documents every young adult should have in place:

- **Healthcare Power of Attorney -** Allows a trusted person to make medical decisions if your child becomes unable to communicate or make decisions for themselves.
- **HIPAA Authorization -** Gives healthcare providers permission to share medical information with designated individuals, helping parents or loved ones stay informed during a medical emergency.
- **Financial Power of Attorney -** Allows someone your child trusts to assist with financial matters if they become incapacitated or unavailable to manage important responsibilities themselves.
- **Advance Healthcare Directive (Living Will) -** Provides guidance regarding medical treatment preferences and ensures healthcare providers understand your child's wishes if a serious medical situation arises.

Having these documents in place doesn't mean you're expecting something bad to happen. **It means you're preparing for the unexpected so the people who care about your child can help when it matters most.**

The transition to adulthood brings exciting opportunities, but it also brings legal changes that many families don't fully understand until they're faced with a crisis. A simple planning conversation today can help avoid unnecessary stress, confusion, and delays tomorrow.

Before your college student heads back to campus—or before your young adult begins their next chapter—**make sure they have the legal protections they need.** Contact our office today to schedule a consultation and learn how we can help your family put these essential documents in place.

- Levi

Call or Click for your appointment today!

www.legaljourneys.com	256-850-3431

Do Your Loved Ones Know What to Do?

Summer often means family vacations, reunions, backyard cookouts, and more time spent with the people we love. While you're gathered together, there's one conversation that can make a world of difference—and it has nothing to do with travel plans or where you're eating dinner.

It's talking about your wishes.

Many people create estate planning documents and feel relieved to have checked that item off their to-do list. But even the best plan can create confusion if your loved ones don't know it exists, where to find it, or what role they're expected to play.

A few simple conversations can help ensure your wishes are carried out when it matters most:

• **Make sure your decision-makers know they've been chosen.**
If you've named someone as a healthcare agent, power of attorney, trustee, or guardian, don't let it come as a surprise. Make sure they understand their responsibilities and are comfortable serving in that role.
• **Share where important documents are located.**
Your family doesn't need every detail, but they should know how to access your estate planning documents in an emergency.
· **Talk about your healthcare wishes.**
While no one enjoys discussing difficult scenarios, having a conversation about your preferences can help loved ones feel confident they are honoring your wishes if a medical crisis occurs.
· **Discuss who should be contacted and when.**
From family members to financial advisors and attorneys, having a clear understanding of who should be involved can prevent confusion during stressful situations.
· **Review your plan after major life changes.**
Marriages, divorces, births, deaths, moves, and changes in financial circumstances can all impact your estate plan. Regular conversations help keep everyone on the same page.

Estate planning isn't just about documents—**it's about preparing the people you love to carry out your wishes with confidence and clarity.** Sometimes the most valuable part of planning is *simply having the conversation.*

If it's been a while since you've reviewed your estate plan—or if your family doesn't know where things stand—now is the perfect time to start the conversation. **Contact our office to schedule a plan review and make sure both your documents and your loved ones are prepared for whatever the future may bring.**

Special Dates

19 - Juneteenth - Offices Closed

21 - Father's Day

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

This month, we are as busy as ever, but are not having any of our traditional events. We would still LOVE to come speak to your group, church, or business for a lunch & learn! Reach out to our Marketing & Relations Director, Brandy, to set this up. brandy@legaljourneys.com or simply reply to this email!

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

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

One of the most common issues we encounter isn't a lack of good intentions; it's that people simply don't remember every detail of the advice we discussed during their planning process. When questions come up later, it's natural to do what seems reasonable, search online for answers, or ask friends and family what they would do in a similar situation.

The challenge is that estate planning and trust administration are highly individualized.

Advice that worked for someone else—or information found online—**may not apply to your specific circumstances.**

Even well-intentioned decisions can sometimes create unintended consequences that are difficult, and occasionally impossible, to reverse.

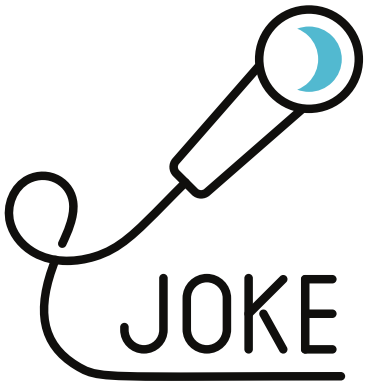
If you're ever unsure about a decision, can't remember the guidance we provided, or are considering making changes to assets, accounts, beneficiaries, or your trust, please reach out to us first. A quick phone call or email can often prevent costly mistakes and ensure your plan continues to work exactly as intended.

Our goal is to help you and your loved ones **stay out of court and out of conflict.** We are always happy to answer questions and provide guidance so you can move forward with confidence.

Client To-Dos

Do you have a Kids Protection Plan in place for your minor children? If it was created in or before June 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

What did the farmer use to count his cows?

A COWculator!

What's blue and smells like red paint?

Red paint.

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

Please join us in welcoming Jennifer Greer, our Summer Legal Intern! Jennifer spent more than 21 years in real estate financing before returning to school to pursue her law degree. She is now entering her final year of law school and will graduate in May 2027.

Jennifer is an Ole Miss graduate, an avid reader, and has been married to her husband, Ron, for 18 years. Fun fact: Ron was her senior prom date, and their home is a friendly "house divided" between Ole Miss and Mississippi State fans!

We're excited to have Jennifer with us this summer and look forward to all she'll accomplish.

TLDR

- **Respond to this email** with anything you'd like us to know. We **love** hearing from you!
- Are your **kids going to college or college age?** Make sure they have a plan as well! Call us to set up an appointment for them!
- 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!**
- Have questions about your plan? Not sure of your next moves? 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.