ISSUE #17

Monthly Newsletter

LEGAL JOURNEYS, LLC
May 2026 ✦

Staff Appreciation Day 4/28/26

I Must've Blinked...

I remember my Little Mamaw always telling me that time went by faster the older you got. When I was a child and teen, I remember feeling like time was like molasses in winter. My birthday in a few months? Might as well be lightyears away. A single school day? An eternity.

Then, time has done what it does best....kept marching on. Somehow, I ended up here, in Huntsville, Alabama, at 45 with an adult child, and I'm not quite sure when or where I blinked. I was in high school last year! My son was born just yesterday! He can't possibly be 21 and engaged??

And to think. Here we are in 2026, and the year JUST STARTED....and we are already in May! Some might say that time is a thief....but I say **time is a gift.** I am so thankful for each and every day that I am given.

You may be like me and wondering where the time has gone.

Maybe you're even saying, "Forty-five? You're just a baby!" (My Little Mamaw always used to say that to me, no matter my age.)

Well, my friends... I can't tell you exactly how fast the sand in the hourglass is falling—but I can tell you this: one day, it stops. And when it does... what happens to everything you've built? All the long days, the sacrifices, the life you worked so hard to create—where does it go?

That's not a question for "someday." That's a **now** question. Because while you're here, while you have the **clarity** and the **capacity**—**this is your moment to decide.** To make a plan. To make sure your family isn't left overwhelmed, guessing, or scrambling when they're already grieving.

Make the decisions now... so they don't have to later.

Legal Journeys Team - XO

In this newsletter you can expect:

Are You Fully Planned for Summer Travels?

KPP Highlight

Funding Spotlight, Events, & More

Trust Funding info & how-tos

Joke of the Month + TLDR

Are You Fully Planned for Summer Travels?

Summer has a way of sneaking up on us—one minute you're planning, the next you're boarding a plane, loading the car, or heading out for a long-awaited getaway.

But here's a question most people don't think to ask before they leave:

If something unexpected happened while I'm away… would my family know what to do?

It's not the most comfortable thought—but it's an important one. Travel puts distance between you and your normal routines, your trusted professionals, and sometimes even your support system. Having a solid estate plan in place means you're not leaving your family with uncertainty if the unexpected occurs.

A well-prepared plan isn't just about documents—it's about *clarity*, *control*, and *peace of mind*. Before you head out this summer, here are a few key things to make sure are in order:

- **Your essential documents are up to date**
  - Wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and healthcare directives should reflect your current wishes, relationships, and assets—not what life looked like 5 or 10 years ago.
- **Guardianship plans are clearly named (especially for parents of minor children)**
  - If something happens to you, who steps in immediately? Without a clear plan, the courts—not you—make that decision.
- **Someone you trust knows where everything is**
  - Having a plan is one thing—making sure your loved ones can find it when needed is just as critical.
- **Your financial and healthcare decision-makers are prepared**
  - The people you've chosen should understand their roles and have the authority to act if needed.

Taking the time to handle these details before you travel doesn't take away from the excitement of your plans—it enhances it. Because **real peace of mind isn't just about where you're going… it's knowing everything back home is protected.**

Don't wait until "after the trip." Life doesn't always follow our timelines.

If your plan isn't in place—or you're not sure if it's truly complete—**now is the time to take a closer look.** Schedule a consultation with our team and head into summer knowing you've taken care of what matters most.

-Levi

Call or Click for your appointment today!

www.legaljourneys.com	256-850-3431

The 72-Hour Gap Most Parents Don't Know About

If something happened to you today, who would take care of your kids… *right now?*

Most parents assume their children would automatically go to a family member or close friend.

But in reality, without a clear legal plan in place, **your children could be taken into the care of strangers**—even if it's only temporary.

In fact, they could spend up to **72 hours in foster care** while a judge figures out what to do next.

And during that time, **the court—not you—decides who has access to your children.** That could mean someone you would never choose.

Our Kids Protection Plan (KPP) is designed to prevent that from ever happening. It allows you to legally name the people you trust so your children are ***immediately* cared for by someone they know, love, and feel safe with.**

Already have a Kids Protection Plan in place? Don't forget—your short-term guardian nominations should be **signed every year.** If it's been close to (or more than) a year since yours was created, it may be time to update and re-sign your documents to keep your kids fully protected.

Reply to this email or call us at 256-850-3431 to make sure your plan is current and working exactly as it should.

Because in an emergency, there shouldn't be confusion—only certainty.

Special Dates

2 - Von Brewski Beer Festival @VBC

4 - Star Wars Day - May the 4th be with you

5 - Cinco de Mayo 🌮

7 - Tacos & Trusts
Bullet & Barrel - Huntsville
6:00 p.m.

10 - Mother's Day 🌹

12 - Tacos & Trusts
Madison Community Center
6:00 PM CST

25 - Memorial Day - Offices Closed

Have a friend, relative, or neighbor who needs our services? Tell them about our events! This month we have **Tacos and Trusts!** Free tacos and estate planning education! Admission is free, but registration is required! **Register here: www.legaljourneys.com/events**

Have an event you'd like us to speak at?
Reply to this email or give our office a call! 256-850-3431
legaljourneys.com/events

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

We have talked a LOT about what SHOULD go in your trust:

- Bank Accounts
- Home Redeeded
- Retirement Accounts
- Life Insurance
- Adding Trust as Additional Insured on Homeowner's Insurance

This month, we will talk about one thing you **need to do** and one thing you **should *not* do.**

After your home's deed is renamed in the trust and you receive your new deed, you will need to **refile for your homestead** at the Tax Assessor's Office.

You will need your deed and a copy of your certification of trust. In some counties, you can do this online, but it's a quick trip to get it done in person. Make sure this gets done so you can maintain your tax break on your homestead property.

One thing you **do not need to do** is put your mortgage into the trust. Many people make this mistake of adding their mortgage to the trust; however, **only assets go into the trust.**

Reply to this email with any questions you may have about funding your trust. **We will be happy to help!**

Client To-Dos

Do you have a Kids Protection Plan in place for your minor children? If it was created in or before May 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'm reading a book about anti-gravity.

It's impossible to put down.

My favorite exercise is a cross between a lunge and a crunch.

*I call it **lunch.***

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

Elaine is our Firm Manager at Legal Journeys, keeping everything running smoothly behind the scenes. She supports client communication, reviews documents for quality, trains new team members, and handles the details that keep the office running efficiently. She holds an Associate's Degree from Calhoun Community College and has a background in ministry leadership and teaching piano for over 10 years. Outside of work, Elaine enjoys time with her husband Levi, their two children, and their three lively dogs, along with playing piano, reading, cooking, and traveling with her family.

TLDR

- **Respond to this email** with anything you'd like us to know. We **love** hearing from you!
- Are you **fully** planned & prepared for your summer vacation? Schedule your **Life & Legacy Planning Session or Estate Plan Review Today!**
- 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!**
- We are **passionate** about making sure your Trust works when you need it. In order for that to happen, it **must be fully funded.** If you need a self-funding checklist, **reply to this email** and we will be happy to send you another copy!
- Send us your best jokes! We love hearing from you.