



The Law Office of Jodi E. Murphy

Estate Planning • Trusts • Probate
Bankruptcy • Family & Elder Law

December 2011 Newsletter



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Estate Planning for the Digital Era

What happens to all your online stuff?

If you're like me you might have multiple electronic "assets"- a PayPal account, pictures stored on Snapfish or other website, videos on YouTube, maybe even a blog. Would your family members know how to access everything if something happened to you? If you are the Personal Representative of a family member's estate would you know what bills need to be paid? Attorney's previously advised executors of estates to wait until bills came in the mail- but what if those bills never come because they are paid online & statements come to an email address?

In addition to your standard legal documents I recommend that you include a digital estate plan (instructions for your Personal Representative can be uploaded to your electronic storage vault). You will want to include an inventory of your electronic footprints such as:

- A list of the important files on your computer
- Passwords your heirs will need for access
- A list of online accounts, passwords, & other security information /questions

Use the separate writing memorandum of your Last Will & Testament the last page where you designate specific items to individuals & indicate what you want done with them. For example- you may chose to leave your PayPal account to your spouse but your EBay or Etsy shop to your business partner. Perhaps you want to leave legacy planning instructions to your Personal Representative instructing them to print out your electronic photos into an album for each grandchild. Whatever your wishes are make sure to write them down to avoid any unnecessary delay or confusion when it comes to technology & digital assets.

For those who want to leave no stone unturned check out the following websites that will securely organize your electronic assets (& send out posthumous emails to your loved ones!):

www.greatgoodbye.com

www.deathswitch.com

www.legacylocker.com

www.entrustet.com

If you are currently having problems accessing digital assets of loved ones please [contact our office](#). Most social networks, email providers, photo/video sites, & music sites have policies on how to handle an account once someone has passed away. We will be happy to provide that information to you or facilitate access.

Jodi on WDBO's "On the Money" Radio Show

Tune in Saturday December 10th at 9am on 96.5 FM WDBO to hear our very own estate planning attorney,

Jodi E. Murphy, J.D.

give expert advice & answer your estate planning questions.

You can also listen to past episodes online at:

<http://www.financialgroup.com/on-the-money>



May you and your family be richly blessed with health, love & happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming New Year!!

Jodi, Michelle & Shelly



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