

Your Information Resources

This series of brochures is available in the court office and capsules information which will be available in greater depth on the web site of Judge Jordan which is linked/listed below. Other sources may be linked on the web site when it is published in final form.

The “judgejordan” web site will be completed in early 2013, at which time these brochures will be updated to reflect that fact. In the meantime, as each brochure is produced, the expanded information will be reflected on a temporary blog to which you will be re-directed.

The information is available in:

- These brochures, and at
- <http://www.judgejordan.com>

Nothing in these information sources is to be considered legal advice, nor can any content be construed as an indication on how Judge Jordan may rule in any particular case.

The materials in this brochure, and in the entire series of brochures, is intended to be a starting point from which the reader may be able to make informed choices for further action only after consulting with appropriate professional advisors such as an attorney or a certified public accountant.

Your Court



The Forsyth County Probate Court is blessed with a staff which serves the citizens of Forsyth County keeping always in mind the ideal of service.

Office hours are 8:30am until 5:00 pm; however, the public counter closes at 4:30pm for security reasons. Passport applications cannot be initiated after 4:00pm each day.

Court hearings are scheduled so as to lessen the time necessary for attorneys and clients to be present. Calendars are posted at the office and courtroom doors. The court contact information is:

112 West Maple Street
Suite 101
Cumming, GA 30040
Telephone: (770) 781-2140
Fax: communication by FAX is not accepted
Email: communication by email is not accepted.

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Your Attorney

The task of finding an attorney to help you journey through Probate Court or Planning matters is often quite easy if you know another attorney.

What can you do if you do not know an attorney?

In this brochure, we will discuss the resources and approaches which might make your task of locating an attorney easier.

Let's face it. Often one hears the lament "I don't want to spend money on an attorney." An assumption exists among some that an attorney is expensive. Some people assume also that an attorney will bill as much as he or she can. Neither assumption is universally correct.



Situations arise in which we need legal advice and help:

- (1) we need estate planning;
- (2) we want to provide for young children if both parents are gone;
- (3) we want to plan for ageing parents; and
- (4) ageing persons feel a need to protect themselves for varying reasons.

Attorneys are like other groups; some are good, some bad; some are experts, some pretend to be experts; and, some advertise that they do wills, do probate cases, and engage in estate planning.

Keep in mind, however, that we do not have a certification or specialization process here in Georgia. An advertisement does not mean an

attorney is certified in a particular area of the law. There is not a State Bar of Georgia board certification process for attorneys as the medical profession uses for physician specialization.

Always remember that there are those few with an agenda of their own. Fortunately, they are very few and far between.

Remember also that there are those who put "Probate," or "Estate Planning," or "Wills and Trusts" on their web sites or other advertisements assuming that working in these areas is easy enough.

With those cautions, how do we find someone to help us?

Here are some suggestions:

- (1) Ask your friends, but always remember that your friends may not be experts in evaluating attorneys.
- (2) Double check your friends' opinions, and one way is to interview attorneys. Simply go and talk to various attorneys and "grade" them in your own mind.
- (3) DO NOT rely simply on web pages and print advertisements without checking further.
- (4) Check with local and state bar associations. Ask the Chair of the Fiduciary Law Section or the Estate Planning Section to give you the names of several attorneys to interview.

- (5) When you are interviewing an attorney, ask how many times he or she appeared in Probate Court last month, or how many estate cases he or she filed in your own county's Probate Court last month. You can check that latter information very easily.

Understand that your Probate Judge cannot make recommendations regarding an attorney which you should use. There are several reasons for that.

Should a judge recommend a particular attorney, then that judge is expressing a degree of confidence in that attorney. When that attorney next appears in a contested case before that judge, the opposing side will certainly have a plausible argument at the judge must recuse himself or herself because of the reasonable inference that the judge would place more confidence in the attorney whom the judge recommended.

That is not a stretch. A judge must at all times remain impartial in every respect, and never permit the slightest "appearance" of bias or impropriety. While the person asking the judge's opinion is not benefitted by the judge's refusal to recommend, it is what must happen to maintain the fairness and impartiality of our system of justice.

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