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Welcome to the Fisher's Law Office Newsletter, providing you with legal information you can use in your everyday life.

****CASE OF THE MONTH****

Our client signed a contract to have a swimming pool built at his home in Wesley Chapel, Florida. He paid a \$30,000 deposit and eagerly waited until finally the pool company showed up to begin work, and watched as the company's workers dug an enormous hole that would eventually become his dream swimming pool.

The problem? The company's workers never came back and the client's substantial \$30,000 deposit was gone! I did research on the company, and found many complaints and lawsuits. And although I recommended that suit be filed immediately, the client decided to place his hopes on a state attorney investigation into the criminal misconduct of the swimming pool company.

I advise all clients to carefully check for lawsuits, proper licensure, and consumer complaints **before** signing a contract with a swimming pool company or other contractor. In addition, make certain to have an attorney review the contract, and confirm that the contract has hard deadlines for completing the different portions of the pool with a reserve of funds left that will not be paid until the new swimming pool has been completed to the satisfaction of you, the customer.



WHO IS YOUR POOL CONTRACTOR?

PRICE LIST FOR 2021

- Consultation- \$150
- Deeds- \$250 and up
- Simple Will- \$250
- Probate- \$350/hr or per statute
- Living Will- \$75
- Healthcare Surrogate- \$75
- Litigation- \$350/hr plus costs

Call me today at 813-949-2749,
I'm here ready to serve!

NEW LAWS FOR 2021...



As of July 1, 2021 Florida has implemented 162 new laws this year! Some of the laws you may have never heard of, but rest assured we at Fisher's Law Office are staying on top of the situation and continuing to keep our clients informed. Some of the new laws include:

1. As of July 1st Florida police, fire, and rescue workers can use drones to watch crowds, but not to issue traffic tickets.
2. Another new law makes it okay to use hazard lights in bad weather on Florida highways.
3. Another new law signed by Governor Desantis that took effect on July 1st creates a state database for teacher firings, resignations, and personnel files for public and private schools. The bill (known as HB131) requires Florida Department of Education to create and maintain a list of people who are disqualified from teaching in the state of Florida. Included in the database will be reasons for termination as well as a list of teachers who have resigned rather than be fired for sexual misconduct.
4. As of July 1st, another law took effect that allows "to-go" cocktails to become permanent in Florida. The law allows restaurants that provide "to-go" orders to also sell alcoholic drinks. We recommend that our clients not drink the beverages when they pick them up, but instead take them home for consumption.
5. In another law that is good news for police K9s, an injured K9 dog can now be legally transported in an ambulance and receive treatment from emergency medical technicians. "The law reaffirms a commitment to protect law enforcement including four-legged members of the force," said the governor when signed the bill.



We Love Dogs at Fisher's Law Office!

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PET DOG PAYS OFF

Our client's three year old German shepherd had an anterior cruciate ligament tear on its knee (known as an ACL tear). The injury happened while the dog was playing. Fortunately, our client had health insurance for the dog, but the insurance company refused to pay for the ACL surgery which cost over \$5000 claiming the problem was a pre-existing condition. Upon investigation it appears that a veterinarian found an unrelated lump on the dog's opposite back leg eight months before the ACL injury occurred. The client asked me if I could help, so I wrote a letter to the insurance company and included a strongly worded letter from the treating veterinarian confirming that the prior medical issue had nothing to do with the ACL tear. Result? Our client just received a check for \$5,000 to reimburse for the cost of the dog's surgery our client paid for up front! Another great result in a case!

DON'T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH!

A client called because her ex-husband offered to send her \$800 a month from his pension 20 years after her divorce from her husband. Upon investigation, it appeared he had failed to disclose the existence of the pension during the divorce proceeding. He told my client that he felt guilty about not disclosing the pension, which is why he was giving her the money now on a monthly basis. The client felt nervous that she might be taxed on the \$800 a month gift she was about to receive, but I assured her she could take the money and have no consequence.

It's amazing how little bank tellers know about negotiable instruments (checks) since it's such an important part of their jobs...

My client's ex-husband is in prison. He had his IRS stimulus checks sent directly to the client and agreed that she could cash them to pay child support. The bank teller, however, refused to allow her to cash the IRS checks!

Basic negotiable instrument law says the client can sign her ex-husband's name on the back of the check (with his written permission) and cash the two government checks.

I had her use the ATM to make the deposit to avoid the teller.

Please give me a call or schedule an appointment to come into the office today! I look forward to meeting with you and assisting you with your legal needs. 813-949-2749

Ralph Fisher

Education:

1977

Degree in Accounting,
University of Florida,
Gainesville, Florida

1978

License Issued
Certified Public Accountant
(currently inactive)

1983

Juris Doctorate Degree in Law,
University of Florida,
Gainesville, Florida,
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Memberships:

- Florida Bar Association www.flabar.org
- BV rated by Martindale Hubbell
- Gaucho Association www.gauchoassn.com



Ralph B. Fisher, Esquire