

Legal Connections



POWERED BY THE COLUMBUS BAR ASSOCIATION

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"When family dynamics get complicated, look to a Columbus Bar Association lawyer to help you navigate those challenging situations: cbalaw.org."



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SO YOU WANT A DOG...

There are some important things to consider when you decide to get a dog. First, give some thought and do some research on different breed traits, so you can choose a breed that will best fit your situation.



JOHN A. BELL, ESQ.

Rescue groups are also private, non-profit corporations. They are required to register with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, but they are not inspected nor regulated. In Ohio, a "County Humane Society" is not an agency of county government, but is also a private, non-profit charitable corporation.

Once you decide on a breed, one of the best places to acquire your dog is a Humane Society or a Rescue. Their dogs are evaluated, up-to-date on shots and implanted with a microchip so that the dog is returned to you if it ever gets lost. The adoption fee paid to a Rescue or a Humane Society is a small fraction of what a breeder will charge for the same animal. For example, a pure-bred, healthy Golden Retriever can be obtained from Golden Retriever Rescue groups for \$150 to \$300, while breeders charge \$2,500 to \$3,000 for the same dog.

Secondly, make sure you receive a "Transfer of Ownership Certificate," signed by the seller, on a form provided by the County Auditor. The Certificate contains the registration number of the dog, the name of the seller and a description of the dog. Take the Certificate to the County Auditor to be recorded. Their fee will be \$5 and you can license your dog while you are there.

If the seller uses a written contract, read the contract carefully before you sign it. Many Rescues and other sellers will

require you to return the dog to them rather than selling or giving the dog to a third party. There are legal and practical limitations on these contract provisions, but you should assume that the contract is enforceable, and you should comply with the "right of first refusal" in the contract.

And keep in mind that in Ohio, dogs can be designated as "nuisance," "dangerous" or "vicious" dogs, based on certain behaviors. If the dog you choose has been designated as a "dangerous dog," the Transfer of Ownership Certificate must also contain additional information regarding the reasons for that designation. An owner of a "dangerous dog" is also required to have special liability insurance and to take extra precautions in how they house or confine the dog.

Happy puppy shopping! ■



3.2 MILLION

shelter animals
are adopted
each year



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CHILD DISINHERITANCE AND OTHER PROBATE ISSUES? JOIN US ON MAY 16 FOR THE PROBATE LAW INSTITUTE: CBALAW.ORG

PARENTAL PREDICAMENTS: DRUG ADDICTION AND INHERITANCE

Parents plan bright tomorrows for their children, but with more than five percent of the worldwide population facing drug addiction, some tomorrows seem like a dark and scary place.

Parents of children suffering from drug addiction fear that an inheritance may cause harm rather than good. Many parents wonder if they should disinherit a child in order to keep them safe rather than leaving the child assets (money, property, etc.) that could be used for drugs, which could lead to death. Instead of disinheriting a



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child, families can hire an attorney to design and implement trust-centered estate plans so that assets can be used to help a child recover from drug addiction or maintain sobriety based on the child's unique needs.

A trust is a legal agreement in which one party (the Trustee) holds property for the benefit of another party (the Beneficiary). A trust is created by someone called a Trustmaker or Grantor. The Trustee holds assets and distributes them to/for the Beneficiary based on the instructions detailed by Trustmaker.

In some cases, parents require certain benchmarks be met by the Beneficiary before they can benefit from the trust. These benchmarks may include lengths of sobriety or passing a drug test. Some parents include instructions that allow for assets to be spent on the Beneficiary (even if not sober) but without providing cash directly to the child. Instead, third parties (landlords, doctors, treatment centers, etc.) can be paid directly by the Trustee. A trust can be as unique as the individual it is intended to help.

If you need assistance setting up a trust, contact a local attorney. ■

EDUCATION & EVENTS

Wednesday, May 16 • 9 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.
2018 Probate Law Institute
6.0 CLE Hours (2.5 Professional Conduct)

Thursday, May 17 • 9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
2018 Tech Show
6.0 CLE Hours (6.0 Professional Conduct)

Saturday, May 19 • 9 – 10 a.m.
Notary Public: Test Only

Tuesday, May 22 • 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Trauma Informed Practice:
Understanding Delinquency
3.0 CLE Hours

Saturday, June 2 • 9 – 10 a.m.
Notary Public: Test Only

All classes listed are offered at the Columbus Bar Associations offices, 175 S. Third St. Ste. 1100. To register, call 614-221-4112 or enroll online at www.cbalaw.org.



Become a NOTARY PUBLIC today

The **Columbus Bar Association** is the official provider of Notary Public services in Franklin County. Visit our website for notary applications, exams, training seminars and to purchase notary stamps and supplies.

Upcoming notary exams: May 19, June 2, July 7, August 4 @ 9am and every Wednesday at 10am



MORE INFO:

Call (614) 221-4112 or visit our website to learn more and download a notary application:
www.cbalaw.org/notary