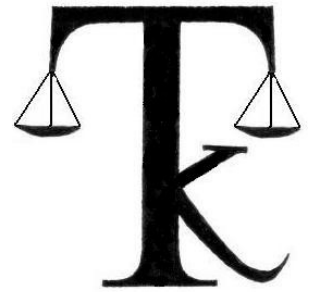


LEGALLY SPEAKING



October 2010

HOW LONG DO I KEEP IT?

Record Keeping Tips

- * Keep Only What You Need
- * Keep Documents As Long As You Need Them To Support Tax Deductions
- * If You Can Get A Copy Later There's No Need To Keep It
- * Cross-Cut Shred Documents With Personal Info
- * Most Documents Can Be Safely Disposed Of After 7 Years

A question commonly asked by people involves how long they should keep certain types of records. There really is no specific answer that would apply in all cases or to all types of records. One factor to consider is whether you would be able to obtain additional copies of the records at a later time (like from the bank or credit company) if you should need them. You should also consider in what circumstances you may need these records, and the consequences of not having the records if you decide to dispose of them. You might want to consider scanning your records and saving them digitally (like on a CD Rom) before getting rid of them. The digital copy of your records could then be placed in your safe or safe deposit box and be available to you for future needs.

If you decide that it is safe to dispose of your personal financial records, it is critical that you do so in a safe and responsible manner. Cross-cut shredding or burning are the safest ways to dispose of these sensitive records without exposing yourself to the possibility of identity theft.

Consumer Reports® recommends that you dispose of bank deposit slips after you've reconciled your statements. Bank account statements can usually be destroyed after a calendar year, unless they are needed to support a tax deduction, in which case retain them with your tax records for 7 years. Receipts are much the same, keeping them until the warranty expires or if needed to support tax deductions, 7 years. Credit card bills can also be disposed of after you've checked them, or after 7 years if



Americans receive hundreds of financial documents a year, but do not know when it's safe to destroy them.

needed to support tax deductions.

When and how to dispose of important financial documents can be so intimidating that we refuse to think about it; keeping documents for years beyond what is necessary. The bottom line is that there is a limit, but that depends greatly on the types of documents and your need for them.

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MEET STEVEN

Many of our prior clients have likely not met our newest lawyer. In February, STEVEN D. FICHTMAN joined our firm. Steven is a graduate of the University of Florida, with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, and a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, with a minor in Economics. Steven obtained

his law degree from Nova Southeastern University and has been admitted to practice law in Florida since 2005.

Steven has concentrated his practice to the areas of Family Law, Evictions, Foreclosures and General Civil Litigation matters. Steven has been

elected Secretary of the Citrus County Bar Association, and is active in the Family Law Section. Steven is also a member of the Citrus-Hernando Inn of Court. Steven and his wife, Kristen have called Citrus County their home since 2005.

LEGAL QUESTIONS?

Got a legal question you wish you could get answered without the time and expense of a law office consultation? Got a family member or friend with a legal issue or question? Visit our firm’s Legal Blog. You can submit your question to our Legal Blog by visiting our firm website at www.KeithTaylorLaw.com.

While we can’t answer every question and our answers are limited based on the limited information you provide, we’ll do our best to address your legal issue. The lawyers in our firm are familiar with all types of legal



issues. Understand that when you submit questions to our Legal Blog, those questions are visible to the public. We will remove any identifying

information before posting your question. We are prepared to answer questions involving the following types of cases:

- Car Accidents
- Slip and Fall
- Dog Bite
- Divorce, Custody & Support
- Foreclosures and Evictions
- Our firm also handles various corporate, contract and related matters.

“Get your legal questions answered by visiting our legal blog located on our firm website.”

TAYLOR ELECTED VP

Attorney KEITH R. TAYLOR, has been elected to serve as Vice President / President-Elect of the Citrus-Hernando Inn of Court. The Citrus-Hernando Inn of Court is a Chapter of the American Inns of Court; a nationwide movement based upon English Barrister Inns, which places significant importance on developing lawyers’ skills while emphasizing ethical and professional conduct by members

of the Bench and Bar. Inn members consist of lawyers, judges, and law students. The Inn meets monthly to “break bread” and to hold programs and discussions on matters of ethics, skills and professionalism. The Inns of Court help lawyers to become more effective advocates and counselors with a keener ethical awareness. Members learn side-by-side with the most experienced judges and attor-

neys in their community.

As Vice President, Mr. Taylor assists in the running of the two-county group, and will assume the Presidency in 2011. Mr. Taylor is also a group leader within the Inn. His group recently presented a program “To Kill A Closing Argument,” using movie clips of closing arguments to show members what is and is not permissible.

FREE LIVING WILL

The area of Estate Planning is confusing, and nothing leads more to confusion than the title given to the legal documents used for planning. Often times, a Will (or Last Will and Testament) is confused for a Living Will. A Living Will can be a critical end-of-life document to have. How many remember the saga of Terri Schiavo?

We know Terri Schiavo because she did not have a Living Will; leading to

years of legal battles and nearly \$1 million in legal fees. As a courtesy to our clients, we have placed a downloadable Living Will form on our website, so that anyone can have one.

If you need to discuss your Estate Plan, call our office for an appointment. We will be happy to sit with you to evaluate your needs and create a plan especially designed for your situation.

FLORIDA LIVING WILL

FREE

Law Office of Keith R. Taylor, PA
Redeem by visiting our website
www.KeithTaylorLaw.com

\$4.1 MILLION FOR WRONGFUL DEATH

Attorney KEITH R. TAYLOR has obtained what is believed to be one of the largest wrongful death verdicts in Citrus County history. In this uninsured motorist action against our client's own insurance company, Mr. Taylor showed the jury how our client's loss was significant, and how a large dollar verdict was necessary to bring justice in this matter. The verdict included medical and funeral expenses of just over \$13,000. By use of an expert economist, Mr. Taylor showed the jury that the economic loss to our client by the death of her

72 year old husband exceeded \$550,000.

In this case, our client's husband was riding his motorcycle when a reckless driver made a left turn across his path, causing the crash and his death. The reckless driver did not have enough insurance to pay for the losses suffered by our client, so a claim was instituted against her insurance company under the terms of her uninsured motorist coverage. "The insurance company refused to pay, so we took them to trial," said Taylor.

Having handled many cases involving wrongful death, Mr. Taylor understands that the sudden and traumatic nature of this kind of death is different than natural death, and the survivors suffer differently. Understanding the importance of explaining the emotional and psychological pain suffered because of the loss of a spouse, Mr. Taylor was able to help the jury find that the value of the emotional loss to our client was \$3.5 million.

This verdict followed a \$3.2 million verdict obtained by the firm just 2 months earlier.

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"The insurance company refused to pay, so we took them to trial."

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THE PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

Ever consider filing your own Small Claims case? Not sure where to turn for help? Our firm wants to help. For many years, senior attorney, Keith Taylor has provided live self-help seminars to the public, explaining various legal issues and procedures.

Recently, the firm recorded some of these segments and we have made them available to anyone on the

worldwide web. Known commonly as "webinars," these pre-recorded tutorials are designed to educate the public on important legal issues affecting them. While this format does not allow for question and answer, it is a convenient format that allows viewers to get this information at any time, anywhere.

To view our webinars, visit our firm

website. If there is a topic which you'd like to see added to our People's Law School Webinars, please feel free to email us or visit our Legal Blog. Look for upcoming webinars on Basic Estate Planning, Basic Family Law and Understanding Florida's No-Fault Automobile Insurance.

FIRM SUPPORTS CHILDRENS EVENT

The firm is proud to continue its support of the Annual Rotary Club Children's Christmas Shopping Program. For over 20 years, the Rotary Club of Crystal River has provided a Christmas for needy and deserving children in Citrus County. Attorney Keith Taylor has served as Event Spokesman and coordinator for several years, helping coordinate and direct the many volunteers from the Citrus County Rotary Clubs and high

school Interact Clubs during the event. Mr. Taylor often includes his own children in the activity of assisting the less fortunate children with their shopping and wrapping of gifts for their own families.

In addition to participating in the event by volunteering time and energy, the firm is excited to continue to contribute financial support to this very worthwhile cause. Every dollar

that is contributed to the Rotary Club of Crystal River Foundation is used to allow these children to purchase gifts for their families so that they can enjoy the 'gift of giving' during this special time of year.

To learn more about this wonderful event or to make a tax-deductible donation, contact the firm at (352) 795-0404.



Attorney Keith Taylor presents a donation to Crystal River Rotary Foundation Treasurer, Paul Cash.

Meeting All Your Legal Needs

Current Resident and/or

We're On The Web
www.KeithTaylorLaw.com

BROKEN EGGS

Our firm handles a significant number of cases involving car crashes. Many times our clients have suffered significant injuries, but their car shows very little damage. In these cases, it is usually not disputed that the client has an injury (as the doctors say they do), but the insurance companies try to say that "something else" must have caused the injury or that it existed prior to the crash. In doing so, the insurance companies point to pictures of the car (showing little or no damage) or the repair estimate, showing relatively minor repairs. Then they ask jurors to conclude, using their "common sense," that this little "tap" could not have caused injuries to our client. This is

an effort to mislead and confuse.

Most of us have seen photographs of vehicles which were destroyed, and no one was hurt; just as we've seen little damage to the car, but significant injury (sometimes even death) to the occupant. The insurance companies play to "use your common sense," is nothing but a trick. In fact, common sense would support a causal link between a crash and injuries, when the client was not having any problems or symptoms of injury prior to the crash, and immediately following the crash, they began to experience pain. No doctor has ever diagnosed injury (or lack of injury) by looking at photographs of a car or a damage repair estimate.

It's kind of like buying eggs at the grocery store. Every person I've ever talked to opens up the egg carton to examine the eggs themselves. Even though the carton (think car) shows absolutely no damage, we all still look at the eggs (think patient / occupant of car). Many times we find damaged eggs. While people are not eggs, we are complex and sensitive beings, and our bodies cannot take forces like steel and other car parts can. While many, or even most, people do not suffer significant injuries in minor crashes, a great number of people do every year.

Think about it: Is it "common sense" to tell a person who just got struck by lightning that he or she

could not have been struck, because the odds of getting struck by lightning are 1 in 750,000? In this context, you can see the ridiculousness of their position. Our firm recognizes the arguments being made by insurance companies in an attempt to deny legitimate claims, and we are prepared to help jurors to not be misled by this flawed approach.

