



TRENDING NOW

Tips for Hiring a Contractor

As homeowners plan spring maintenance and improvement projects, many hire contractors for roofing, landscaping, painting, or other home updates. While most projects go smoothly, disputes often occur when expectations aren't clearly documented.

Before work begins, homeowners should ensure the contract clearly outlines scope of work, materials, payment schedule, and timeline. Avoid large upfront payments and keep written documentation of any changes.

If disagreements arise over pricing, incomplete work, or delays, a written agreement can make a significant difference. Many homeowners have an attorney review major service agreements before signing to fully understand their rights and responsibilities.

FEATURED STORY

Planning Ahead for Aging Parents

For many adults in their 40s, 50s, and 60s, actively supporting aging parents becomes an important responsibility. Families often focus on healthcare needs or housing decisions, but legal preparation is another critical step that can easily be overlooked.

Without documents such as powers of attorney or healthcare directives in place, family members may not have the legal authority to help manage financial matters or communicate with medical providers if a loved one becomes unable to make decisions independently.

These conversations are rarely easy, which is why many families delay them until a crisis occurs. However, addressing these issues in advance can make future situations far less stressful for everyone involved.

An attorney can help explain how these documents work, ensure they meet state requirements, and guide families through the process of identifying trusted individuals who can act on a loved one's behalf if necessary.

Many members find that simply having an initial consultation helps them better understand what planning steps may be appropriate for their family. Taking these steps ahead of time can help provide clarity, reduce uncertainty, and ensure important decisions reflect the wishes of those involved.

CYBER CORNER

Public Wi-Fi Risks

When using public Wi-Fi at airports, hotels, or coffee shops, always avoid logging into banking or other sensitive financial accounts. Unsecured networks can allow cybercriminals to easily and quickly intercept personal information, passwords, and other private login credentials.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Attorney John D. Alexander

This month's When Life Gets Legal seminar featured **John D. Alexander**, a civil litigator with over 20 years of experience and a Georgia Bar member since 2001. He focuses on estate planning, probate, and construction.

During the session, John shared insights on estate planning essentials, including wills, trusts, healthcare directives, and powers of attorney. Attendees learned how proactive planning helps protect families and provide peace of mind. John will return next month's seminar to answer questions.

SEMINAR DATES

WHEN LIFE GETS LEGAL

Topic: Homeowner Smarts

Date: April 8, 2026 from 12 - 1 EST

IDENTITY THEFT TODAY

Topic: App Tampering and Code Injection

Date: March 18, 2026 from 12 - 1 EST

CONVERSATIONS FOR CAREGIVERS

Topic: Managing Finances for an Aging Parent or Loved One

Date: March 25, 2026 from 12 - 1 EST

CASE IN POINT

Resolving a Contractor Payment Dispute

After hiring a contractor to repair storm damage to his roof, a member was asked for additional payment not in the original agreement. Unsure if it was required, the member contacted a plan attorney.

The attorney reviewed the contract and clarified which charges were allowed. With that guidance, the member addressed the issue with the contractor and resolved it before the project was completed.

Understanding the contract helped the member protect their interests and avoid an unnecessary dispute.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Reviewing Beneficiary Designations

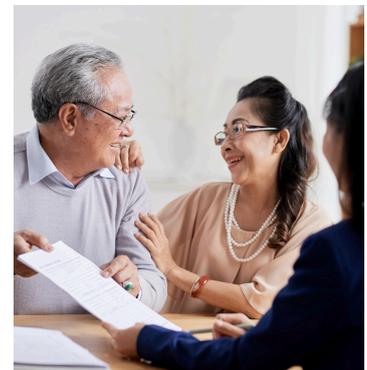
Beneficiary designations on retirement accounts, life insurance policies, and other financial assets determine who receives funds. These designations often override a will, so it's important to review them periodically.

Reviewing them after major life changes—such as marriage, divorce, or retirement planning—helps ensure your assets go to the intended recipients.

FAQ

Q: Can an attorney review a contract before I sign it?

A: Yes. Members can consult with an attorney to review contracts and help ensure they understand the terms before committing.



LEGAL LINGO

Probate

Probate is the legal process through which a person's estate is settled after they pass away. During probate, a court validates the will (if one exists), identifies assets, pays debts, and distributes remaining property to beneficiaries.

The process can vary depending on estate size, state laws, and whether the will is contested. Some assets—such as jointly owned property or accounts with named beneficiaries—may transfer directly without probate.

Because probate can involve court procedures and legal responsibilities, many families choose to consult an attorney to guide them and ensure the estate is administered properly.

