



TRENDING NOW

Property Taxes: Why Your Value May Change

As localities finalize spring property assessments, many homeowners receive updated valuations that don't always align with expectations. These assessments aren't just estimates. They directly impact property taxes and can shift based on market trends, comparable sales, and municipal adjustments.

What's often misunderstood is that assessed value and market value aren't always the same, and increases don't always reflect improvements made to the property. If something seems off, most areas provide a limited window to appeal.

Understanding how your property is evaluated, what factors are considered, and when action can be taken can help you make informed decisions and potentially avoid overpaying in the long term.

FEATURED STORY

Award-Winning Support When It Matters Most

We're honored to share that Legal Resources Member Services has been named a 2026 Bronze Stevie® Award winner for Customer Service Team of the Year in the 24th Annual [American Business Awards](#)®.

Recognized for "**Human-Centered Support That Guides Members Through Life's Legal Moments,**" this honor reflects the consistent care, patience, and dedication they bring to every single interaction. For many members, reaching out to Member Services is the first step taken during an uncertain or stressful situation. What sets this team apart is their ability to make those moments feel more manageable, by providing clear guidance with thoughtful support and a genuinely human approach to navigating legal needs.

Whether it's helping members understand their benefits, connecting them with the right attorney, or carefully walking through what comes next, the Member Services team is committed to making legal support more accessible and less overwhelming for everyone they serve.

This award reflects those everyday interactions and the very real experiences our members have across every touchpoint. We're so incredibly proud of the team behind this recognition and deeply grateful for the meaningful role they play in supporting our members each and every day. This one is truly well-deserved.



CYBER CORNER

QR Code Scams on the Rise

Scammers place fake QR codes over legitimate ones at parking meters, restaurants, and public signs, redirecting to fraudulent sites. Before scanning, check for tampering, preview the URL, and avoid entering sensitive info on unfamiliar pages. When in doubt, visit the official website directly.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Legal Lessons for Life After High School- May 13, 2026 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

This month's When Life Gets Legal session focuses on the legal realities young adults face after high school, from signing leases and navigating contracts to understanding everyday legal responsibilities that come with newfound independence.

Featuring Monica Garcia of K Altman Law and Brad Barnett of James Madison University, this session brings practical legal and financial insight for both students and parents preparing for what's next.

SEMINAR DATES

WHEN LIFE GETS LEGAL

Topic: Legal Lessons for After High School
Date: May 13, 2026 from 12 - 1 EST

IDENTITY THEFT TODAY

Topic: Avoiding Social Security Scams
Date: May 20, 2026 from 12 - 1 EST

CONVERSATIONS FOR CAREGIVERS

Topic: Caregiver Burnout - Tools and Support
Date: May 27, 2026 from 12 - 1 EST

CASE IN POINT

When Property Lines Weren't So Clear

After noticing a new fence installed slightly beyond their property line, a member found themselves in an uncomfortable situation with a neighbor. What started as a simple conversation quickly turned into a disagreement, with both sides confident in their understanding of the boundary.

Unsure how to move forward, the member used their Legal Resources plan. An attorney reviewed their survey, explained how boundary lines are legally determined, and clarified the member's rights and next steps.

With early guidance, the member avoided escalation and additional costs.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Are You Focused on the Right Financial Priorities?

Financial priorities shift as life changes, but many people stay focused on the same things too long. Once you're actively saving, reviewing protections like life or disability coverage matters just as much. Later, timing Social Security and withdrawals becomes key.

Understanding your current stage ensures you're focusing on what matters most now. Members can connect with [Kinnect Advisors](#) for personalized financial guidance.

FAQ

Q: What's the difference between a contested & uncontested divorce?

A: An uncontested divorce involves full agreement on key issues; a contested involves disagreement on one or more, requiring negotiation, mediation, or court resolution. Member Services can guide you to a proper attorney.



LEGAL LINGO

Mandatory Arbitration – What You May Be Agreeing To

Many contracts today include a mandatory arbitration clause, requiring disputes to be resolved outside of court through a private process. This can mean giving up your right to file a lawsuit, having limited appeal options, and resolving issues in a less public setting.

These clauses are common with service agreements, financing contracts, and even everyday purchases, but they're often overlooked. Understanding arbitration before you agree to it is important, as it can significantly impact how future disputes are handled. Your Legal Resources plan can help review agreements and explain clauses like this so you can make informed decisions before signing.

