

# LEGAL SMART

JANUARY 2021 EDITION

The mission of Legal Resources is to provide superior legal services to our members, enabling them to lead active, healthy and worry-free lives, free of major legal expenses.

This Month's Edition includes:

- > Unveiling the Legal Resources Blog
  - > A Virtual New Year's Eve Celebration
  - > 2021 Legislation
- and much more!



Inside this issue...



## Pack vs. Purge

The annual whirlwind of holiday celebrations has to come to a close. Before you pack away the streamers, tinsel, and lights, double check which festive décor may need to retire. Pieces of sentimental value are certainly worth holding onto, but other gently loved items that no longer fit your holiday vibe make for great donations to your local thrift shop or Salvation Army. Taking stock of your decorations is the perfect way to get organized and extend the season of giving into the New Year.



## #TrendingNow

New Laws of 2021



## Something Different

Will the Ball Drop for 2021?

## Featured Story

### Introducing the Legal Resources Blog

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our newest digital venture, the Legal Resources Blog! In addition to the monthly updates you receive here in our LegalSmart newsletter, you can visit our blog daily for the latest highlights in the legal and identity theft worlds. Our blog also serves as a resource for answering questions about your plan or how to resolve certain legal matters such as will writing, adopting a step child, navigating your day in court, filing for bankruptcy, and much more. Here's the low-down on our blog's offerings:

**LegalSmart Newsletter:** Catch the latest edition for when it gets lost in your inbox!

**Trending in Legal:** Interested in keeping up with what's trending around the globe? Get the scoop here.

**Identity Protection:** Stay informed on phishing scams and hacker tricks to ensure your identity doesn't fall victim to theft.

**Legal Services:** Navigating the legal world can be difficult, here we simplify the most common legal needs.





# #TrendingNow

## New Laws of 2021

Come January 1, 2021, a number new laws will go into effect. Along the East and West Coast and throughout the Mid-West, state governments have reevaluated certain legislation as it pertains to employment law, criminal matters, protected PTO, traffic violations, and more. Californians can expect a minimum wage increase while Virginians should refrain from handling their cell phone while driving to avoid a hefty ticket.



# SOMETHING DIFFERENT

## Will the Ball Drop for 2021?

Closures, reduced capacity, and other restrictions have riddled the nation for 10 months and are continuing well into the New Year. Times Square – the epicenter of all things New Year's Eve – has fallen victim to isolation as it will be closed to the public for the first time in 114 years. While the city's decision to eliminate crowds is intended to curb the spread of COVID-19, it is not projected to diminish holiday cheer.

This year, the annual Times Square party will go virtual, enhancing its limited line up of live performances with digital elements. First responders, front-line workers, and select celebrities are invited as honored guests too. While entertainment is secured, the most pressing question remains – will the ball drop?

The answer is, yes! Watch it live on major news channels or on the ball's official website, [TimesSquareBall.net](https://www.timesquareball.net).

## DID YOU KNOW ?..

### Legal Resources Closes Out a Record-Breaking Year

The pandemic brought several matters to the forefront of Americans' minds, many of which involved family, health, and end-of-life plans. Legal and identity theft inquiries **increased by 7%** in 2020. Preparation of wills and other essential documents also **jumped 16%**, demonstrating the rising need for legal protection in a world of unknowns. Kick off the New Year by reviewing how your Legal Plan can serve you and get a head start on tackling matters that keep you and your family safe, happy, and protected.

## CYBER CORNER

### New Year, Same Tricks

Didn't love the gift your distant aunt sent you? Well, hackers do. Or they at least love the opportunity to compromise your PII when you head to the post office or mall to make your return. The simplest way to avoid theft is to get your hands on the original sales receipt. This typically allows for a direct refund to your credit card or offering store credit without having to swipe or present your ID. During instances in which your driver's license must be presented or scanned, monitor yourself for a while after. Your personal information is stored in the retailer's system and could be compromised in the event of a data breach.



## Frequently Asked Questions



- Q:** I understand that uncontested divorce and uncontested adoption are included in the Legal Plan's fully covered services. What does uncontested mean?
- A:** In short, "uncontested" means not disputed or challenged. In both adoption and divorce situations, uncontested pursuits require both parties to mutually agree to adopt or divorce without any legal disputes.

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