



## What's going on at the Weeks Law Firm?

Ah, summer! It's been such a rainy spring, it's good to finally have some sunshine. We've had a great spring at the Weeks Law Firm. **Risa Lozano** joined our firm in April as a paralegal. She is a law school graduate and a fast learner, and we are looking forward to her growing with our firm. **Lena Carrera** was promoted to the position of Client Management Director, and has taken on additional office management duties in addition to taking care of our clients and keeping us connected with the professional and disability community.

Our attorneys were recognized as top-notch attorneys. **Chris Krupa Downs** was named a Texas Super Lawyers Rising Star, and **Tresi Weeks** was named to the Texas Super Lawyers, and the DMagazine Best Lawyers. Tresie was elected to serve on the Board of the Dallas Estate Planning Council, and was elected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Collin County Bar Association. Chris and Tresie were asked to speak to various organizations about estate planning, special needs trust and guardianship.

We'd like to thank our clients, and the professionals who refer clients to the Weeks Law Firm. It is an honor to work with you all.

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## News and Updates:

# Your Vacation Checklist



## Creating an Estate Plan

If you don't have an estate plan yet, don't panic. Now is a great time to connect with a qualified estate planning attorney who can sit down with you and get you started with an appropriate plan for your financial future.

Here are some questions to begin the process:

1. **Do you have a will?** An attorney can help you create an accurate and intentional will if you do not already have one.

[Read more...](#)

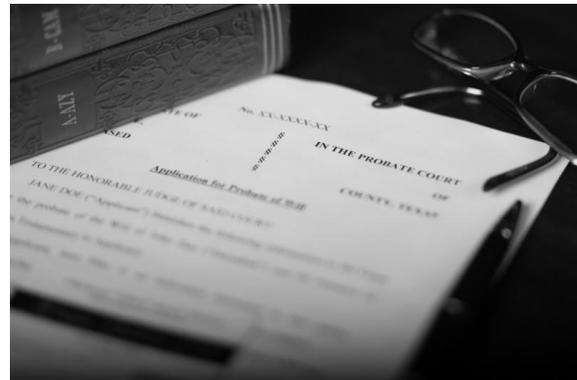
You've packed sunblock and a beach novel. You've planned your itinerary and bought plane tickets. But have you ensured that your estate plan is up to date?

Don't leave home without making sure your financial health and the future of your loved ones is provided for. It's even more crucial than getting a pet sitter and locking the front door.

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## Muniment of Title – What it is and when it may be used? by Chris Downs

Recently as I was writing a paper about the forms of probate administration to present at a continuing legal education seminar, I asked myself “what is the form of probate that I get the most questions about?”. The answer was clear to me: I get the most questions about Muniment of Title. When this form comes up in a probate consultation or conversation, the first comment I hear is “I haven't heard of that.” So, in this article, I am going to provide a general overview of what is Muniment of Title.



[Read more...](#)

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## Should a Special Needs Trust Buy a Home for a Beneficiary?

Homeownership comes with many pitfalls and responsibilities. Buying a home through a special needs trust, rather than through the beneficiary or a



family member, provides additional protections against creditors and allows for increased flexibility when selling the property, since the assets are maintained with the trust.

When buying a home, a key starting point is understanding the differences when the purchase is made through a first- or a third-party trust. Assets held in a first-party trust are considered those of the

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For some people with disabilities, homeownership may present a uniquely empowering opportunity. But for many others, purchasing a home through a special needs trust may be in the beneficiary's best interests.



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*I have felt overwhelmed and anxious for years about our estate planning as well as the special needs trust and plans for my sister. Tresi put all my worries at ease in a matter of two appointments. I feel so much better and know that all of my family will be taken care of. If you have been putting these things off don't! Especially if you will be responsible for someone with special needs Tresi will help you navigate through the government assistance programs and a trust!*

## Past Events:

**Prestonwood Caregiver Conference.** On April 6, 2019 the Weeks Law Firm participated in this year's Prestonwood Caregiver Conference and Tresi presented on Special Needs Planning and Trust to a large group of caregivers, parents and professionals.

**It's a Sensory World.** On April 13, 2019, the Weeks Law Firm partnered with Brian Lynch from AXA for an educational workshop presented by Tresi for parents on Special Needs Planning at It's a Sensory World in Framers Branch. It's a Sensory World is a center that provides a sensory rich and nurturing environment to children of all abilities, including those with Autism, ADHD, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and Sensory Processing Disorders.

**Epic Health.** On May 4, 2019, Tresi presented with Ben Goehring from Edward Jones on the basics of planning for the future to parents and caregivers of someone with special needs. Strategic planning is essential. Epic Health and ABLE service providers hosted the event in North Dallas.

**National Business Institute.** On May 16, 2019, Chris Krupa Downs was the featured speaker at the National Business Institute Estate Administration Boot Camp in Frisco. She spoke on the forms of administration and handling distributions for estate planning attorneys.

**Financial Planning Association.** On May 17, 2019: Tresi was a keynote speaker for this year's FPA DFW Conference held in Irving. This year's conference was filled with expert speakers in their field and brought much valuable information to the hundreds that attended. It was a pleasure to share the complex type of planning that is involved in Special needs planning.

**CCBA Family Law Section.** On May 23, 2019, Tresi Weeks spoke to the Family Law Section of the Collin County Bar Association about helping families with a child with disabilities in a divorce or child support situation. She included a discussion of the use of special needs trusts so that child support does not disqualify a child from SSI/Medicaid.

**My Possibilities.** On June 6, 2019: The Weeks Law Firm and TXGPS partnered to present to families at My Possibilities on ABLE to work, ABLE accounts and SSI. Many HIPsters are working and living independently, it's important that families understand what ABLE accounts can and cannot accomplish.

**NonPareil.** June 12, 2019: It was a pleasure to partner with the nonPareil Institute of Plano, where Tresi educated staff and families on the importance of putting a special needs plan in place for a loved one on the spectrum. Many individuals who are autistic might not be receiving government benefits, but their families realize that the future is unknown for them and that their loved ones may need a plan put in place with support from a team of professionals.

**My Possibilities.** On June 17, 2019, the Weeks Law Firm was proud to be a Gold Sponsor 6th Annual My Possibilities Community Ball, a night filled with endless possibilities for adults with special needs. My Possibilities passionately pursues the ideal that everyone deserves the opportunity to grow by providing education, events and enterprising opportunities to their HIPsters (Hugely Important People)

## Upcoming Events:

**Community for Permanent Supported Housing.** Are you thinking about creating a Neighborhood

Home or leaving a home to in your estate for your loved one with disabilities? On August 6, 2019, Tresi will share some of the issues that you need to address when you are making these plans for the future, including whether to own the home in a special need trust or LLC. We hope you will join CPSH for this important discussion from 6:30 PM 8:00 PM at Irving Bible Church 2435 Kinwest Irving, Texas 75063.

**Purposeful Planning Institute.** Later in July, Tresi will attend the Purposeful Planning Institute Conference in Denver, fine-tuning skills to help families leave not only money, but also their values to make an impact and a lasting legacy.

**NAELA and Elder Law Conference** On July 31, Chris and Tresi will attend the Texas National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys conference, as well as the UT Law Estate Planning, Guardianship and Elder Law Conference in Galveston.

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