



Westport-Weston Probate Court Newsletter

Westport-Weston Probate Court Newsletter- April, 2019

Join Me!

April 9, 2019
11:00 AM
Westport Senior Center
Imperial Ave
Westport

May 15, 2019
12:30 PM
Weston Senior Center
Weston

Date: TBD (April)
Staples HS
Transitions:
Guardianship

Join Me!

PROBATE COURT FREE SEMINARS
TAUGHT BY MOI

Town Hall, Westport
110 Myrtle Avenue
Room 100 or 101
Time: 7:30 PM

Hi and Hello,

I'm Lisa Wexler, the Probate Judge for the Westport-Weston District in Connecticut. Welcome to our newsletter.

THANK YOU NEWS 12 FOR SPREADING THE WORD

 **WATCH NEWS 12 NOW**



Hometown Hero: Lisa Wexler



I'm proud to support WASA, the Westport Animal Shelter association. If I perform a wedding ceremony, the fee goes there. [Here is the link](#) to the segment.

4/9: Trusts v. Wills,
What's the Difference?

4/16: Estate Admin Basics
& CT 706-NT

4/30: Mental Illness &
Substance Abuse
Proceedings

5/21: Your Duties as a
Fiduciary- Executor,
Admin or Trustee; Rights
as Beneficiary

5/28: Conservators:
Person & Estate

6/4: Guardianships:
Persons and Estates

**Always check
w/court at 203-
341-1100 for last
minute changes.**

Would You Like Me to
Speak to Your Group?
Need more info?

Pls send email to
lisawexlerlaw@gmail.com

NEW ESTATE TAX DEADLINE PROPOSAL

Under current law, CT estate tax returns are due 6 months from the date of death. Federal returns are due 9 months from that date. Gov. Lamont has proposed syncing the dates, so that CT tax returns will be due 9 mos. from the date of death. We will keep you posted if this becomes law.

CURRENT ESTATE and GIFT TAX THRESHOLDS:

2018 deaths: CT Exemption \$2,600,000

2019 deaths: CT Exemption \$3,600,000, Fed
\$11,400,000

2019 gifts: Fed Exemption: \$15,000

WHY DO YOU NEED A WILL? A CAUTIONARY TALE

A true fact pattern:

Mother and adult Daughter live together for many years. Daughter never married, has no children, no siblings.

Mother died. Mother's will left everything to Daughter. Daughter fell down the stairs and died, unexpectedly. Daughter left no will.

Therefore, Mother's property, which was left to the Daughter, will now go to the Daughter's next of kin. Who are her next of kin? They are relatives of Daughter's father, long-divorced from the Mother. In fact, those relatives admit never having known the Daughter, the Mother or even each other! Yet they inherit all the property of each.

Moral of the Story: Make a will. And please hire an attorney to help you, to lessen the possibility of confusion later on.

PROBATE COURT MEDIATION:

Probate Court mediation may be the best-kept secret and greatest value for the dollar. For only \$350.00 for the entire day, contesting litigants can utilize the services of an existing or retired probate judge to mediate their dispute. Having completed a 40 hour mediation training at the Quinnipiac School of Law, I'm both a convert and participant. Check out the details [HERE](#).

PUPPY LOVE:

Our beautiful new puppy, Shaina, was born on October 13, 2018, two days after Sugar passed, and on the date which was Sugar's birthday. As we say, it was "b'shert", meant to be. She's a handful of fun.



-Types of Matters On Our Docket:

Note: These fact patterns do not represent specific cases in the court; rather, they are representative samples of the types of matters presented to the Probate Court.

1. An elderly woman was discovered living in a filthy, cluttered home. The probate court was notified and appointed a conservator to move the woman to a nursing home, save the home from condemnation, and marshal the assets to pay for her care. The conservator fees were too high, in the opinion of various relatives. Probate court will decide the final amount of fees, after determining what fee is reasonable.

2. A woman dies. There is no will. The family does not know if there are assets which need to be probated. A son petitions to become an estate examiner for limited purposes, to have limited authority to investigate whether such assets exist. He also petitions to open a safe deposit box. If assets are found, then the son will petition to administer the estate.

3. A grandmother wishes to become guardian of her 6 year old granddaughter because the mother is a drug addict and the father is absent. The court will decide whether to remove the parents and appoint the grandmother.

4. A 55 year-old man developed symptoms of schizophrenia for the first time. His wife brought him to the hospital for evaluation. He believed the FBI was following him, refused to eat food because he thought it was poisoned, and believed that all medicines were designed to eat his brain. The hospital petitioned for commitment and authorization of a conservator to compel the giving of medicines over his objection. The court will decide whether the man is dangerous to himself or others, or gravely disabled. It will further decide whether the medicines are necessary.



Spring is here! Enjoy.

Judge Lisa Wexler