

Edwards Group LLC

David Edwards and Joshua Becker, Counselors-at-Law

Bills, Debts and Taxes:

Will your debts die with you? Or haunt your family after you're gone?



So, who pays your debts when you're gone? Your wife? Your kids? What happens when someone dies, leaving debts and not enough money to pay them?

The Good News

Here's the good news: No one else is required to pay your debts, as long as they are not on the debt, too. Your wife, your kids, your executor, your power of attorney – none of those people are required to pay off *your* debts with *their* money. What they are required to do is use your money to pay your debts. But if your

money runs out, then the creditors are just plain out of luck.

The Vital News

Even though your debts die with you, they can still haunt your family and the assets you leave behind. Maybe you're thinking – I pay my bills on time, why should I worry about debts after I die? Let me give you a few examples about how obligations you leave behind could haunt those you care about most. Let's think about the various kinds of "debt" – not just overdue bills, but any obligation that may be left unpaid at your death.

Your house. Suppose you have a house with a mortgage. When you're gone, the mortgage must be paid or refinanced. Will your spouse be able to stay in the house?

Your business. Without planning, your business may be at risk. Does the business depend on a loan or credit line based on you?

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From Dave's Desk

If you haven't already heard, Michelle and I are having a boy! He's due in mid-September, and people keep telling us that "boys are different" than girls. Does that mean that he won't be having as many tea parties as Bailey?

We have lots to do to prepare. In the next week or two we'll be painting the baby's room. In the next month or two we'll be picking out a name (that will be kept secret until after the birth). And in the next year or two we'll constantly be trying to find the energy to keep up with the kids! I look forward to sharing my family with you in the coming years, and I look forward to sharing your family's joys and struggles, too.



At the Edwards Group – we all care deeply about our clients and their families. Let us know how we can help you face a difficult time or plan ahead to protect your family.

BIG CHANGES MAKE EDWARDS GROUP EVEN BETTER!

We've had a lot of exciting changes at Edwards Group in the last few months! We brought on Laura Peffley as our Asset Coordinator and attorney Joshua Becker is David's new partner in crime... er, uh... law. We even had to tear down some walls and rearrange the office to accommodate everyone!



All of these changes were made with you in mind! Both Joshua and Laura bring very valuable and unique experiences with them to our firm (check out their bios on page 3). They are both committed to doing their best to help clients effectively plan for the future. We are excited about the changes and hope you will be, too!

BILLS, DEBTS AND TAXES (CONTINUED)

Without you, will the business be able to access needed bank credit?

the farmer son may be left without a way to make a living.

right time to take care of them. Without a plan, your family will be left paying – in legal fees, time, stress, frustration, and strained relationships. A plan to address these issues is more than getting the right kind of legal document. Addressing these issues and others will require you to integrate your legal and financial plan. We help clients do this every day at Edwards Group. Let us help you, too. RSVP today for one of our upcoming workshops to find out where your family is at risk, and how to have true peace of mind.

~DOE



Your partners. If you're in business with a partner, how will your share be bought out at your death? Maybe a lot of your wealth is in the business, but, without a plan, how will your family get the money?

College. How strong is your desire to help your kids (or grandkids) get an education? Does it rise to the moral obligation of a “debt”? When you're gone, how does your plan make sure the funds are there when the kids are ready to go to college?

Uncle Sam. In 2011, estate taxes are coming back with a vengeance. Without a plan, your family may need a fire sale of assets to pay off the IRS bill. Do you know how much your estate may owe in estate taxes?

The family farm. Do you have a child who farms and other children who don't? What is your “debt” to each of the kids? Without a plan,

You may not leave behind unpaid credit card bills or overdue bank loans, but you may leave other obligations. You must have a plan in place with enough funds at the

Call us to set an appointment at (217) 726-9200, and start making your plan today.

THOUGHTS ON PARENTING BY ELISA COTTRELL

The kids (5 and 7) recently asked me to play basketball with them. Having turned into a lame adult somewhere in the last 8 years, I thought of a million reasons why I shouldn't – dishes in the sink, laundry on the couch, packing for the upcoming move, an article I needed to finish up. The list, as most adults know, could go on for days and days and days. But something deep inside of me told me to seize this moment, so I headed outside to a perfectly beautiful summer day, a Gonzaga Bulldogs basketball my husband had bought the kids on a recent trip, and a 6-foot Fisher Price goal.



My radar immediately shot up as my oldest, completely out of character, attempted to trash talk, saying haughtily, “Momma, we *know* skills.” Trying not to giggle at her adorable attempt at intimidating me, I gave them the ball to start. As they discussed whether to inbound with a bounce pass or to just try and run it past me, my mind wandered to the millions of other things I “should” have been doing. *Come on. Just inbound the ball.*

The first few plays went quickly by. I stole a couple of passes and went up by 6 points. Playing against the kids made me feel like an NBA player – in stature and skills. Slowly, my youngest started playing defense like Manu Ginobili (one of our favorite players from the San Antonio Spurs). I just couldn't shake the kid.

And soon it was halftime. The kids were up by 4 points... and I hadn't thought of the dishes in at least 15 minutes.

After a mandatory rest and water break, (“We're really wearing you out, Momma!”) we returned to the sunny driveway. At this point, I had forgotten my pride, the dishes, laundry, moving and work. I was living in the moment – a skill that all children seem equipped with. A skill that somewhere along the way most of us adults lose.

We were playing first to 40. As my youngest scored the final basket and immediately started a victory dance that only Terrell Owens would be jealous of, my daughter finally got the trash talking down. “I told you we got skills, Momma!” And I thought to myself, “Yes, yes you do. Skills that I can really use.”

JOSHUA BECKER, PARTNER AND ATTORNEY AT LAW



The Edwards Group is thrilled to welcome a second attorney to meet the needs of our clients! Joshua Becker became a partner with the group on June 1. A graduate of Chicago-Kent College of Law, Joshua has been practicing law since 2001 when he was admitted to the North Carolina bar.

Upon moving back to his home state of Illinois in 2005, Joshua opened a solo practice before joining the firm of Sgro, Hanrahan & Durr, LLP. His areas of interest include estate planning, real estate, probate/estate administration and Elder Law. Of special interest, with regards to Elder Law, is effective Medicaid planning. Joshua has a unique understanding of the needs of the elderly and prides himself in serving them and their families.

Joshua first met David at a meeting of the Young Philanthropists, and shares David's passion for being involved in the community and helping others. After striking up a friendship, the two discovered a shared approach when working

with clients. Both really try to listen to their clients, implement the plan that best serves their clients and not just insert their clients into a standard template.

In his personal life, Joshua is married to Cecile, whom he met in high school while she was an exchange student from The Netherlands. Cecile is a Neurologist at Springfield Clinic, and they have 3 children: Mathijs (6), Kinsey (3) and Maxton (2). When he's not chasing after his kids, Joshua also enjoys running, cycling, triathlons, camping and home improvement projects.



He's very excited to be joining David in serving the estate planning needs of those in Springfield and the surrounding areas, and effectively contributing to the Medicaid planning needs of our clients, their friends and families.

LAURA PEFFLEY, ASSET COORDINATOR



Laura Peffley joined the Edwards Group team back in May as our Asset Coordinator. Born in Stuttgart, Germany to military parents, Laura has had a lifelong connection to the military, working at the Pentagon for a while and traveling extensively as a military spouse.

Since 2007 she has worked in the financial planning industry

and specialized in processing crisis Medicaid applications. The valuable experience there has made her an incredible asset to our team and our clients. When asked about Laura joining the group, David responded, "She fits right into our team because she really cares about the clients and their families. She has shown that in prior positions, such as when she worked as a church secretary. She brings a wealth of experience in dealing with estate related financial transfers, and she has also spent years working with families who are facing the crisis of a family member moving to a nursing home."

When not in the office, Laura enjoys spending time with her husband Bill, an environmental engineer. Her hobbies include exercising, eating healthy, working in the yard and sewing. Laura has two adult daughters, a grandson, age four, and a new granddaughter due in September!

Fun Fact About Laura:

Laura graduated from T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia, which was made famous by the movie *Remember the Titans*, starring Denzel Washington.

NEW! Long-term Care Essentials Workshop:

Nursing Homes, Medicaid and Protecting Your Assets

Has someone told you to give your assets away to protect them?

If you transfer your assets, you will:

- ◆ Lose control of them forever.
- ◆ Be dependent on those you transfer them to.
- ◆ Create additional taxes for those you transfer to.
- ◆ Risk becoming ineligible for Medicaid for 60 months or more.



Asset protection planning includes many complex laws including tax law, trust law, Medicaid law, probate law and contract law.

Make sure your attorney is qualified to protect you.

Edwards Group LLC has developed unique asset protection trusts that:

- ◆ Allow you to control your assets until death.
- ◆ Allow you to retain all income from your assets.
- ◆ Enable you to protect your assets from the nursing home.
- ◆ Ensure you qualify for Medicaid in the shortest period of time possible.

Attend one of our **free** workshops with attorney, Joshua Becker. Call (217) 726-9200 to reserve your seat today. Hurry, space is limited!

Upcoming Workshops

Truth About Estate Planning

Thursday, July 8 @ 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 20 @ 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 27 @ 9:30 a.m.

NEW!

Long-term Care Essentials

Thursday, July 22 @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday, July 23 @ 1:30 p.m.

RSVP by calling (217) 726-9200
or email Lynn at
lynn@edwardsgroupllc.com.

How will the 2011 estate tax changes impact your family?

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