

YOUR LEGAL CONNECTION

*Do you have questions?
Do you need answers?*

Email your questions to:
whitney@healthadvicefromthepros.com
or mail them to Brannon & Associates Inc.
2600 Rogers Avenue Fort Smith, AR 72901

Personal Injury

James M. Corrigan, Esq.
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Q Do most personal injury cases settle prior to going to litigation or trial?

James M. Corrigan P.A.

A Yes. Most claims for personal injuries are settled by the attorney representing the injured party and the insurance company for the at-fault party in the accident prior to litigation. If the case cannot be settled, a lawsuit will be filed, but the case still may settle prior to going to trial. A mediation is often required by the court at which an independent mediator will work with all parties to try to get the case settled. The mediator is not a judge and cannot force the parties to settle. It is important that the attorney for the injured party make a strong presentation concerning liability and damages at the mediation.

Social Security Law

Baker & Baker
Social Security Law Attorney

300 East Government
Pensacola, Florida 32502
(850) 433-0888 • qbaker@bakerlawflorida.com



Quin Baker

Q What can I do to improve my chances of winning my Social Security disability claim?

A Give complete information to Social Security about your disabling conditions. Some claimants are embarrassed to tell Social Security about psychiatric problems or about being a slow learner in school. Telling Social Security about these conditions may help your chances of being approved for disability benefits. Make sure Social Security has complete information on where they can obtain copies of all medical records documenting your disabling conditions. If you are denied you should appeal and hire an experienced person to represent you. Most claims are denied at the initial level, but are approved at higher levels of review.

Family Law

Stephen T. Holman P.A.

1940 St Mary Avenue
Pensacola, Florida 32501
(850) 435-6909
www.stephenholman.com



Stephen T. Holman P.A.

Q What if I need temporary alimony or child support before the final hearing in my case, but my spouse will not pay?

A There is a procedure for going into Court after the case is filed to get an order of temporary child support, alimony, or other relief, such as visitation rights and custody rights until such time as the case can be fully heard.

Criminal Defense

Valerie Erwin Prevatte
Criminal Defense Attorney

504 North Baylen Street
Pensacola, Florida 32501
(850) 444-7475 • www.prevattelaw.com



Valerie Erwin Prevatte

Q When I fill out a job application, must I disclose an arrest that has been expunged?

A In general, you may lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge the arrest covered by the expunged record unless you are a candidate for employment with a criminal justice agency (such as the local police department), or you are seeking to be employed by an agency in a position having direct contact with children, the developmentally disabled, or the elderly (for example, an assisted living facility), or you are seeking to be employed by the Department of Education, school board, any school, or by any local governmental entity that licenses child care facilities.

Elder Law

McConaughay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver, P.A.

316 South Baylen Street, Suite 500
Pensacola, FL 32502
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Jason White

Q If Medicaid pays for my care in a nursing home, will my family home be taken to pay the state back for these benefits?

A No. Although this does happen in other states, at this time in Florida the homestead is constitutionally protected from creditors, as long as it is titled correctly and passes to certain designated people at your death.

Estate Planning

Emmanuel Sheppard & Condon
Estate Planning, Trust, Probate & Tax Law

30 S. Spring St.
Pensacola, Florida 32502
(850) 433-6581 • lawtalk@esclaw.com



Kevin D. Nelson

Q When I die, do all of my assets have to be probated?

A No. Many types of property pass upon death by operation of law without being probated. Examples include joint property (for example, property owned by "Tom and Jane, husband and wife"); many checking or savings accounts in joint name, which also generally pass automatically to the survivor; assets eligible to be titled in your name and then "payable-on-death" to someone else, such as stock; and life insurance proceeds.

Bankruptcy Law

Karin A. Garvin
Bankruptcy Attorney/Debt Relief Agency

220 West Garden Street, Suite 805
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Karin A. Garvin

Q When are the new Bankruptcy laws effective?

A TODAY! All bankruptcy cases filed today and later are subject to all provisions of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. Many individuals in northwest Florida still have the right to file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case based on their income. In addition, Chapter 13 bankruptcy remains an option to stop foreclosure sales and allow individuals to submit a plan to pay some or all of their debts.



Whitney Brannon

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Q Who writes the questions and answers on Your Legal Connection? Where can I send my questions or how can I participate?

A Your Legal Connection segments are written by area attorneys and are paid features. The Pensacola News Journal and Brannon & Associates, Inc. are not responsible for the opinions and the suggestions presented herein. Email your questions to Whitney@healthadvicefromthepros.com or mail your questions to Brannon & Associates, Inc. 2600 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR, 72901.

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