

GRAVETT & GRAVETT

Kids Protection Plan™ Safeguards Children's Future

Local attorneys commit to plan that fully protects children after tragedy

March 05, 2008 – White Plains, New York – Many families believe that identifying guardians in a will to care for children in the wake of tragedy is all that can be done to secure their children's future. However, a will is not enough to make sure that children will not be taken into the care of Child Protective Services if a parent suddenly passes away or becomes incapacitated.

Husband-and-wife Personal Family Lawyers™ Willem and Margaretha Gravett of the law firm Gravett & Gravett recognize the many challenges parents face in protecting their children's futures. The firm has implemented a program allowing parents to protect their children in the wake of tragedy. The Kids Protection Plan™ addresses concerns that a will does not, allowing parents to safeguard their children's futures more effectively and more completely.

Not Just Who, But How

Providing a set of instructions and legal documents for parents with children who depend on them for their care and well-being, the Kids Protection Plan™ is much more detailed and explicit than the provisions found in a will. If parents were in an accident and had only a will, the police may have no choice but to place the children in the care of Child Protective Services until the will is located, reviewed, and appropriate arrangements have been made. The Kids Protection Plan™ gives parents an identification card to carry in their wallet, outlining temporary and permanent guardians for their children in the event of a tragedy. Police can easily find the identification card for the Kids Protection Plan™ and will be able to contact the children's designated caregiver(s) immediately, because the parents' desires are known.

The Kids Protection Plan™ can also be implemented in the instance of a parent's temporary incapacity, while a will can only take effect upon death. The Plan also benefits parents whose long-term child guardians do not live locally, allowing them to appoint temporary guardians who will be reflected on their identification card. More comprehensive than a will, the Kids Protection Plan™ also gives parents the opportunity to leave clear instructions about the values, insights, stories and experiences that they want to share with their children as they grow older.

When Wills Won't Work

If parents only have a will, it is likely that the will contains one or more common mistakes, particularly with regards to guardianship appointments. Parents often appoint a couple as guardians for their children, ignoring the possibility of the two individuals separating and thus voiding the terms of the will. Without the appointment of alternative guardians, the children may be turned over to the State's Child Protective Services.

Neglecting to outline financial provisions for the children is another common oversight parents make in a will. Despite an absence, parents can still take an active roll in determining their children's financial future, and, with a Kids Protection Plan™, they can appoint someone to manage the money they leave behind for their children in accordance with their wishes.

"Many parents believe preparing a will that appoints guardians for their children is sufficient to ensure the children will receive appropriate care in their absence," said Margaretha Gravett.

“Unfortunately, even a well-drafted, comprehensive will is not always enough to prevent children from being placed in the temporary care of Child Protective Services. The Kids Protection Plan™ eliminates this possibility.”

Making Safer Plans

A new service available through their appointment as Personal Family Lawyers™, Gravett & Gravett is only the third law firm in New York to offer the Kids Protection Plan™. As Personal Family Lawyers™, Willem and Margaretha Gravett will offer unique services to advise clients in making the best personal, financial, and legal decisions for their family's future. The Kids Protection Plan™ will allow the Gravetts to assist parents with the challenge of making sure their children are appropriately cared for in the event of parental absence resulting from death or incapacity.

“Guiding parents in developing a thorough plan of action to ensure their children are appropriately cared for in their absence is a crucial part of our client service,” said Willem Gravett. “The Kids Protection Plan™ rectifies the common oversights when parents draft a will and gives parents peace of mind. Most importantly, the Plan prevents anyone from challenging the parents’ express desires in a courtroom.”

Developed by Alexis Martin Neely, the Kids Protection Plan™ safeguards children against the common mistakes parents make in developing a care plan for their children in the event of an untimely death or temporary incapacity. Neely contends that 74% of parents have not named guardians for their children, and of the 26% who have appointed guardians, most have made at least one oversight that will delay or prevent their intentions from being implemented.

Allowing parents to make detailed provisions and spell out their ambitions for their children's futures alleviates the stress of worrying about what could happen to their children if they were no longer able to care for them. The Kids Protection Plan™, available through Gravett & Gravett, ensures that parents’ desires become a reality when they are unable to care for their children.

About Gravett & Gravett

Willem and Margaretha Gravett are Personal Family Lawyers™ and founding partners in a boutique law firm focusing on the legal needs of families. They strive to be their clients’ trusted advisors for life through their total commitment to client care and service excellence. Serving families in Westchester and Putnam Counties, Gravett & Gravett has offices in both Mount Kisco and White Plains. For additional information visit www.gravettdivorce.com or call 914.358.0036.