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What Legal Documents Does Your College Student Need?

By Ian T. Hammett, Esq.

For college students, March may mean basketball tournaments and spring break; for college-bound high school students, March is typically the time to begin thinking with anticipation about college selection decisions. As families begin to plan for their child's transition into college, there are many practical logistics to consider. One such item that should be on the top of the list is to ensure they are prepared to be on their own from a legal perspective.

Most students will be legal adults when they head off to college, enjoying more freedom for them and less access for their parents. Without the appropriate documents, parents and guardians may not have access to their adult child's educational, financial, and medical records and may not be able to help make decisions or take actions for their child in the event of an emergency. We recommend college students be proactive and prepared by having a few legal documents drafted to grant parents the ability to access key information and to help with decision-making in the case of an emergency.

At Mason, Griffin & Pierson, we offer a program to counsel college students and their parents in such matters. With the consent of the students, we can create and execute general Powers of Attorney to address financial matters and Advance Directives for Health Care which include naming designated health care representatives. We can also assist families wishing to gain access to educational, financial, and medical records under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

To schedule a no-obligation consultation regarding estate planning for college students or any other estate planning questions, please call Ian T. Hammett, Esq., at (609) 436-1212 or contact him by email at i.hammett@mgplaw.com.

Ian T. Hammett, Esq., an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey, is Of Counsel to Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C., and has been practicing estates and trusts, real estate, and business law in the greater Princeton area for well over three decades. This article is offered for general education purposes and is not intended to constitute legal advice.

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