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PURPLE HAZE

Prince's Heirs Face Difficult Legal Battle

Estate attorneys constantly harp about the importance of having an updated, thorough estate plan. It may seem like nothing more than a marketing pitch, but those

reminders are consistent because of their dire importance. Take, for example, the case of the legendary musician Prince. When he passed away in April 2016, his estate was valued at over \$150 million. The singer had no children or spouses to speak of, but he had six siblings entitled to inherit his estate. However, determining all potential beneficiaries without an estate plan was a challenge that cost the estate dearly.

Prince's Probate

In the case of Prince's estate, the absence of any will led to a prolonged probate process. While the six siblings were named as legal heirs, they could not agree on a distribution of assets between them. This resulted in frequent court visits and a prolonged legal entanglement that cost the estate millions. During this process, several heirs sold their inheritance shares to a company called Primary Wave, which acquired the rights to

Prince's music. This only complicated the process further.

Unworthy Suitors

Due to the estate's value, many suitors came looking for a portion of the inheritance. This included 45 imposters alleging kinship to the late musician. Ruling them out took half a decade, thousands of court filings, and numerous DNA tests. When all was said and done, the potential heirs cost the estate over \$3 million in legal fees.

The Importance of an Estate Plan

The lack of an established will or trust in Prince's case may have come down to his natural mistrust of lawyers. However, his failure to confide in legal advisors cost his estate and heirs millions of dollars. If you have yet to establish an estate plan, let this be your wake-up call: You do not want a fight to occur in your wake. Prepare for your family's future.



Photo:
Allen Beaulieu

2025 SECURITY CHECK

Is Your Digital Life Protected?

Can you believe it? We've officially turned the page to 2025! As the saying goes, out with the old and in with the new. As you kick off the year with a fresh start this month, it's the perfect time to get your documents, finances, and plans in order. With that in mind, here's an important question: How secure are your passwords?

Password managers are an excellent tool for safeguarding your information while keeping it organized and accessible. They store your passwords securely and make it easier to manage multiple accounts without compromising security. Additionally, they provide a way to share important access details with trusted loved ones so someone can step in to help with your financial accounts and information if needed.

These days, many people store passwords on their phones, which isn't very secure. With so much advanced technology, I recommend using a dedicated tool like 1Password. This online service is designed to keep your passwords safe and streamlined. One of its best features is accessibility across all your devices — whether on your computer, tablet, or phone, your passwords are safely stored and ready whenever you need them.

I'll admit it — before I heard about 1Password, I used the same base password for everything, adding an extension at the end with the bank's name or account to which it was linked. At the time, I thought it was a clever way to remember my passwords while keeping them slightly different to protect against hacking. However, I realized that my "secret" password would be exposed everywhere if my information were ever compromised, and I'd be vulnerable.



With a password manager, unique passwords are automatically generated for every website, ensuring each account is protected with its own specific password. For added security, you can add an additional four digits to the password that are stored in the password manager. Since only you know those additional digits, this extra step enhances your protection and adds a personalized layer of security.

A password manager also allows you to share passwords with loved ones in a secure manner. You can customize which passwords you share with specific individuals. For instance, you might want everyone in the family to have access to your Amazon account, while other accounts remain private and accessible only to certain people. Tools like 1Password allow for this level of customization.

1Password offers an Emergency Kit, a PDF document containing your account details and a space to write your 1Password master password. By filling it out and storing it in a secure location, such as in a safe or safety deposit box, you'll have a backup to access your account if you cannot log in. It also ensures your loved ones can access your important information in the event of your death or incapacitation.

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YOUR ROLE AS EXECUTOR

Estate Plan Responsibilities Explained

Being named an executor is an honor that comes at a difficult time. But looking after the estate of a loved one after they are gone is a privilege that comes with many responsibilities. You must manage paperwork, assets, and maintenance costs. Moreover, as executor of the estate, you



are responsible for carrying out the will of the deceased. If you have been named executor of an estate, here are three duties you must manage.

Asset Distribution

The primary role of the executor is to distribute the estate's property according to the decedent's wishes. This also includes paying for maintenance costs during probate and before distribution can occur. As the executor, you are responsible for paying any mortgage, utility, car, and other necessary bills until the beneficiaries take over those responsibilities. Although some assets may avoid probate, the executor must file the will in probate court in most states.

Paperwork and Notification

As executor, you must obtain copies of the death certificate from the funeral home.

This is necessary to file a tax return for the decedent's final year of life and to file a life insurance claim. It will also be required when notifying applicable government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, of the decedent's passing. It will also be your responsibility to notify the decedent's credit card company, banks, and mortgage lenders.

Funeral Arrangements and Accounts

The decedent's wishes for funeral arrangements will most likely be included in the will, and it is your role as executor to carry them out. Additionally, all payments made on behalf of the decedent should come from an estate account. Establishing an estate account for dividend payments, paychecks, tax refunds, and burial expenses is key. This role may seem complicated, but whoever gave it to you knew you were up to the task.

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At Beach Cities Estate Law, we offer our clients the ability to keep a note in their file regarding the location of their original estate planning documents and other important items such as password manager emergency kits and passkeys to accounts holding virtual assets. In the event of an emergency, we can guide the authorized person to the appropriate location, ensuring they obtain access when needed.

So, as we enter 2025, let's prioritize security and organization. With just a little effort now, you can set yourself up for a safer and smoother year ahead. Here's to starting strong and staying secure!

- Angela Klenk



Nashville is known as "Music City" because of its role in the birth of country music and its centuries-old Ryman Auditorium. Famous performers like Jimi Hendrix, Otis Redding, and Dolly Parton have performed in venues on the city's iconic Jefferson Street. As amazing as their live performances are, they are nowhere near as impactful as Jon Bon Jovi's was on Tuesday, Sept. 11, last year.

I Don't Want to Live Forever

On Wednesday, Sept. 12, Jon Bon Jovi, frontman of the rock band Bon Jovi, became the unwitting star of a viral video released by the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department (NMPD). The day prior, while filming a music video for his upcoming album on the public Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge, Bon Jovi came across a woman standing on the ledge overlooking the Cumberland River. He quickly acted to ensure she didn't get "One Step Closer" and did his best to provide her with "Something to Believe In." Over several minutes, Bon Jovi evoked his song, "I Got the Girl," and successfully convinced her to step away from the ledge to safety.

Nobody's Hero

The MNPD was impressed by Bon Jovi's selfless act. After YouTube took down the video of Bon Jovi's rescue, the NMPD reposted it on their Facebook page and lauded the singer's achievements wherever they could.

"It takes all of us to help keep each other safe," MNPD Chief John Drake said of Bon Jovi on X (formerly Twitter).

Bon Jovi is no stranger to altruism. His nonprofit organization, the JBJ Soul Foundation, assists those suffering from homelessness, poverty, and hunger. His foundation's food and affordable housing programs have aided the less fortunate since 2006. It sure seems like Bon Jovi is committed to "Work for the Working Man."

Embrace the French Art of Living

Enrich Your Golden Years With L'art de Vivre

Living like a French person isn't just about enjoying cheese and wine; it's about embracing *l'art de vivre*, or the art of living. This philosophy emphasizes finding joy in simple pleasures, prioritizing quality over quantity, and cultivating beauty in everyday life. For those of us reaching our golden years, adopting this way of life can enhance our quality of life and make every moment more fulfilling. Let's explore how you can infuse your daily routine with French elegance and leisure.

Slow down and savor.

The essence of the French lifestyle is taking the time to savor life's joys. In France, this might mean lingering over a meal rather than rushing through it. Apply this principle by taking time to appreciate the small details of your day, whether enjoying the quiet morning hours with a cup of coffee or watching the sunset. This deliberate

slowdown helps to reduce stress and increase mindfulness.

Prioritize self-care.

Self-care is paramount in French culture. It goes beyond vanity to encompass a comprehensive lifestyle that maintains mind and body health. This can involve a balanced diet rich in natural foods, regular physical activity, and routines nourishing the body and soul. As you age, these practices are vital for maintaining your health, energy, and vitality, allowing you to enjoy your years to their fullest potential.

Choose quality over quantity.

The French are known for their classic style, which favors quality over quantity. This principle applies to various aspects of life, from clothing to kitchenware. Investing in fewer but better-quality items ensures longevity and guarantees your purchases are meaningful and genuinely improve your life.



Inspire your inner artist.

The French celebrate creativity as a significant aspect of their daily life. Emulate this by setting aside time for cultural activities that spark your creativity and passion. Whether attending a concert, visiting an art gallery, or simply engaging in a creative hobby at home, these activities enrich your life, stimulate your mind, and provide tremendous joy.

Adopting these elements of the French art of living can bring richness and joy to your everyday life, proving that the golden years can be your most vibrant.



Ingredients

- 1 boneless pork sirloin roast (3–4 pounds)
- 2 tsp dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp pepper
- 2 medium onions, cut into thin wedges
- 1 cup plus 3 tbsp orange juice, divided
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp grapefruit juice
- 1 tbsp steak sauce
- 1 tbsp reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tsp grated orange zest
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 tbsp cornstarch
- Egg noodles, cooked

Directions

1. Cut roast in half. In a small bowl, combine oregano, ginger, and pepper; rub over pork. In a large skillet coated with oil, brown roast on all sides. Transfer to a slow cooker; add onions.
2. In a small bowl, combine 1 cup orange juice, sugar, grapefruit juice, steak sauce, and soy sauce; pour over roast. Cover and cook on low for 4–5 hours or until meat is tender. Remove meat and onions to a platter.
3. Transfer cooking juices to a small saucepan. Add orange zest and salt. Bring to a boil. Combine cornstarch and remaining orange juice. Gradually stir into the pan for 2 minutes or until thickened. Serve with pork and noodles.