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Trusts & Estates Quarterly
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Beware Of Nursing Home Pre-Dispute Arbitration Agreements

Moving into a nursing home, whether for short-term therapy and rehabilitation or for long-term care, is a difficult transition for many people and their relatives. Under stress and in physical pain, people rush through the admissions paperwork without reading or fully appreciating what they are signing. If relatives are handling the admissions process under a power of attorney or health care proxy, they are no more likely to understand the paperwork. [Click here to read the full article](#)



What To Do With A Decedent's Vehicle

A frequently asked question in estate administration is what to do with the decedent's vehicle. This articles provides helpful tips and steps to take to change the title to reflect new ownership.

As a cautionary measure, it is advisable to cancel the decedent's driver's license or identification card to prevent misuse for fraudulent purposes. Any disabled placard and license plates should be returned to the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). [Click here to read full article](#)

Inflation-Adjusted Federal Estate and Gift Tax Exclusion Amounts For 2017

The IRS has announced that the 2017 federal estate and gift tax exclusion amount has increased by \$40,000 from last year's \$5.45 million to \$5.49 million. That means that in 2017, a person can die having transferred during life or at death, in the aggregate, \$5.49 million in assets and no federal estate tax will be owed. A married couple will be able to pass \$10.98 million federal gift and estate-tax free, as long as they follow the rules that the Internal Revenue Service has laid out. [Click here to read full article](#)

Annual Report: Facts From The IRS About Estate and Gift Taxes

Every year, the IRS issues its "Statistics of Income" and "Data Book." These publications present excellent opportunities for us to explore the wonderful world of federal taxes, including income, excise, estate and gift taxes. [Click here to read full article](#)



What Is A Trust? Why Is It Useful?

A trust is an agreement, usually in writing, where an owner of property (a "settlor," "grantor," or "trustor") makes another person (the "trustee") the nominal owner of property to be held or used for the benefit of the settlor or one or more others ("beneficiaries"). The settlor can be the trustee of a trust funded during the settlor's life. [Click here to read full article](#)



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