



LGBT INDY LAW *BLOG*

from the desk of BARBARA J. BAIRD, Attorney at Law

APPOINTING AN EXECUTOR FOR LGBT COUPLES AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE STATE OF INDIANA

When a couple gets married in the state of Indiana, one spouse is automatically entitled to be appointed executor of the others' estate if the spouse did not leave a will or did not appoint another person in the will. If you are in a domestic partnership and not married, you have to take the extra step of appointing your partner or another reliable person as the executor of your estate. Otherwise, the courts can appoint executorship to someone you don't want handling your affairs after your passing. That's why one of the most important things LGBT people in Indiana can do is appoint someone like a partner or a trusted friend or sibling to handle their affairs and execute their estate upon their death.

In Indiana, There Can Be Major Consequences for Not Planning Ahead

Passing away without already having an appointed executor can mean piles of paperwork, sleepless nights, huge headaches, and substantial legal fees for the grieving people you leave behind. It can also mean that your partner is not allowed to make any decisions about what happens with your estate, nor be entitled to what you want to bequeath to him or her. The process of appointing an estate executor can be confusing and intimidating in Indiana, especially for LGBT couples who have chosen not to marry. To navigate this process, you need an experienced lawyer who is proud to serve Central Indiana's LGBT community and will make sure your choice of executorship will be honored by the courts.

Probate and Estate Planning Lawyer for LGBT Families in IN

Your family doesn't have to go through this complicated process alone. Indianapolis estate planning attorney Barbara J. Baird works with Indiana LGBT families in Marion, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson and Hancock Counties. She is an aggressive advocate who will fight for you to see that your wishes are honored.

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

The process of appointing an executor doesn't have to be intimidating or depressing. Many couples feel better knowing that these matters have been taken care of. Appointing your partner, family member, or friend as executor of your estate is an act of love, trust, and commitment.

To schedule an appointment with one of Indiana's most experienced estate planning and probate lawyers who understands the unique needs of LGBT people and their families, call our Indianapolis law office at (317) 426-9334.