

Call Your Mother

By Dennis Toman, JD, CELA and Founder of *The Elderlaw Firm*



By the time you read this, Mother's Day will have passed by until it comes again next May. And that's ok because my point is that every day should be Mother's Day.

Most likely you called or visited your mother on Mother's Day, if you could. And today is still a good time to call her. Or better yet, go visit if she's close enough. It's for no reason, other than you can...and because it's important for both of you.

Don't wait for next Mother's Day...or until tomorrow. Today is the best time.

Take it from Coach Bryant

Please don't just take my word for it. You can hear it from legendary football coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant. Back before cell phones and free long distance, South Central Bell asked him to make a TV commercial. This was late in his career and after his mother had died. Apparently, Coach Bryant was supposed to end the commercial by asking in his tough, no-nonsense voice, "Have you called your mama today?"

When the commercial was filmed, Coach Bryant



decided to ad-lib. Looking into the camera as it zoomed in for the final seconds, Coach Bryant said: "Have you called your mama today? I sure wish I could call mine."

The ad got a huge response. I even read where someone said that when the commercial ran on Mother's Day, the call volume shut down the phone system. I wouldn't be surprised if that was true.

The commercial later was mentioned by award-winning New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman in a 2008 Mother's Day column. To find the commercial online at youtube.com, simply search for "Bear Bryant Commercial." It's worth watching.

who was dealing with Alzheimer's. His mother had been more than a little stubborn and demanding, and her advancing dementia made it even more difficult for her family. Her son came in and told me that despite anything else, "She's my mama and we're going to do what's right for her. She gave me life. That by itself means I owe her everything. What else could I do?"

Mother's Day can be a bittersweet day for many. Yes, it's a joy to be able to call or visit your mother, if you can. But for those who don't have a mother to call, or for mothers who wait in vain for a child's phone call, it's a day for wishing things were different.

Take time to do what's right

And this brings us to something that's so important about proper elder law estate planning. With proper planning, you get to answer one of life's very important questions: "How do you want to be remembered?" Have you taken the time to make things simpler for your family? Are you going to be able to pay for elder care if needed in later years? Or will your family wish things were different...but it's too late to change things.

Have you called your mother today?


Every day really should be Mother's Day for your mother! And it can be, if you take the time to make it so. Have you called your mother today? **WJ**


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Dennis Toman founded The Elderlaw Firm to provide peace of mind for local residents and their families as they travel their elder care journey. His team develops estate plans personalized for each client's needs. Families appreciate their remarkable client service. Learn more at www.elderlawfirm.com.

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Mother's Day can be bittersweet

Thankfully I was able to (and did) call my mom this Mother's Day once again. And my wife heard from our sons and daughters-in-law, too and we enjoyed every minute of their phone calls. Sadly, Lynne couldn't call her mother because her mom passed on in 2015. So Lynne remembered good times and a lifetime of love, and smiled through some tears.

As an Elder Law attorney, I've learned that there are only a few certainties in life. One is that no one makes it out of this world alive; everyone's life on Earth ends. And another certainty is that everyone has or had a mother.

Less certain is whether family bonds have endured over time. Unfortunately, not all families stay close. But I'm always impressed when children step up even under difficult situations to do what's right by their parents.

I remember one son who came to help his mother