

Ask the Expert



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Qualifications

Tim MacMillan received his Juris Doctor in 1998. Tim practices in the legal areas of Family Law, Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation, and Wills Certified Mediator. He has been practicing law in Carrollton since July 2001.

What every West Georgian should know about...

Common Legal Terms

Q What is marital property in Georgia?

A Marital property is any property that is acquired during the course of a marriage. This includes real estate, vehicles, furniture and retirement accounts. Essentially, everything that is purchased during the course of a marriage, regardless of who actually purchased the property, or whether it was purchased as a "mutual decision," is considered marital property.

Q What's the difference between a "natural father" and a "legal father?"

A A male who fathers a child out of wedlock is known as a "natural father," or "biological father." Georgia is a state however that

doesn't recognize the natural father as the child's "legal father." The process of "legitimizing" the child creates custodial and visitation rights to the child.

Q What's the difference between "legal heirs" and "beneficiaries?"

A Having a Will is extremely important. There are many reasons why a Will is significant, none of which is more important than understanding the difference between a "beneficiary" and a "legal heir." Beneficiaries are those individuals who YOU want to benefit from your estate where as Legal Heirs are relatives, legally entitled to benefit from you, whom YOU may not want your estate to benefit.

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