



January 2026 Newsletter



Dear Cherished Clients, Advisors, Colleagues, and Friends,

Welcome to our January newsletter. As the new year gets underway, many people find themselves settling back into routine and taking stock of what feels organized and what still feels unfinished after the busy holiday season. This time of year often brings a quieter kind of reflection, less about resolutions and more about creating a sense of order moving forward.

In this month's article, we focus on the opportunity the new year provides to get organized and prepared in small, manageable ways. Rather than major overhauls, our discussion centers on how clarity, accessible information, and thoughtful preparation can reduce stress and make things easier for both you and the people who may one day need to step in.

If this month's article prompts questions about your own arrangements or highlights areas where a bit more structure may be helpful, our office is always available as a resource. As always, we appreciate the trust our clients place in us and look forward to the year ahead. We hope you stayed warm and safe during our ice storm and continue to do so as we face this unusual weather (for us) this winter season.

Warm Regards,

Hanna

Quips & Quotes

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in great ways."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



A New Year Opportunity to Get Organized and Prepared

The beginning of a new year often brings a quieter kind of motivation. After the rush of the holidays fades, many people find themselves thinking less about resolutions and more about getting their footing and creating a sense of order that makes everyday life feel a little easier.

Being organized does not have to mean making major changes or taking on complicated projects. In many cases, it starts with small, manageable steps such as gathering important information in one place, labeling folders that have been left untouched, or making sure a trusted person knows where to find what they would need if circumstances ever changed. These steps may seem simple, yet they can significantly reduce stress.

Preparation is often less about documents and more about clarity. When information is easy to locate and responsibilities are clearly understood, families are better positioned to respond to unexpected situations without confusion or unnecessary pressure. Many people do not recognize how much uncertainty exists until someone is suddenly required to step in and make decisions without guidance.

The new year also provides a natural pause point. It is an opportunity to notice where things feel scattered or incomplete. If certain arrangements no longer reflect how life looks today, or if key information lives only in your head rather than in an organized place, that may be a sign that some thoughtful organization could be helpful.

A few small steps can make this process feel more manageable. Writing down key contacts, organizing digital information such as online accounts and passwords, and having conversations with family members about roles and expectations can help prevent confusion later. None of these steps require everything to be finalized at once. They simply create a stronger foundation.

This kind of preparation is not about anticipating the worst. It is about making life easier for yourself and more manageable for the people who may one day need to assist you. Taking time now, while things are calm, can help ensure that information, expectations, and priorities are clear when they matter most.

If getting more organized at the start of the year raises questions about whether your arrangements are structured the way you intend, our office is available to help talk through those concerns. A thoughtful conversation can often bring clarity before small issues become larger ones. Call our office at 866-603-5976, or [reach out through the website](#), and we will be in touch to schedule a time to meet.



Maintenance Members

We are excited with the new updates and documents we have for you this 2025/26 Maintenance year. We sent out our 2025/26 Maintenance contracts in July so if you have not received yours give us a call to reserve for this Maintenance year which is already in full swing.

Look for more fun events this new maintenance year. We started off with our annual shred it event on Saturday, October 18, 2025. Thank you to all our wonderful attendees. We had over 150 people attend and I believe everyone had a great time. I know we truly enjoyed chatting with each of you and the day was so beautiful! We were sad to have to cancel our Holiday Open House on Friday, December 5, 2025 due to the weather. We look forward to a spring event to catch up with you and hope you had a joyous season! Please stay safe and warm this challenging winter season.

We thank you again for the generous donations for our pet charities! We continue to be a donation center so please keep our beloved pets in mind when you visit us! **Blankets are in high demand right now if you have only gently used or see any on sale you would like to donate!** We look forward to seeing many of you at the events we have planned for the rest of our maintenance year. Check out our website under 'Events' for our Coffee with Donna, and other dates that we will add to the calendar as we schedule them. We are working on our schedule so keep an eye on our event calendar.

Why Appointment Rescheduling May Incur Additional Costs

Understanding the Value Behind the Work

At our firm, we understand that life can be unpredictable. Emergencies arise, plans shift, and sometimes it is necessary to reschedule appointments. We are always happy to work with you to find a new time that fits your needs.

However, we want to be transparent about why such rescheduling—especially on short notice—will result in additional costs, particularly when your legal documents must be updated to reflect the changes.

Time Reserved for You

When we schedule your appointment, we set aside dedicated time for you—time that is specifically blocked out in our calendar. This means we turn away other clients who need assistance during that window. Rescheduling usually results in lost time that cannot be recovered or filled on short notice.

Behind-the-Scenes Work

Estate planning and legal work involve far more than just the time we spend face-to-face. Prior to your appointment, we prepare your documents, review your file, and pre-draft materials for efficiency and accuracy. When a date is changed, these documents must be re-dated, re-reviewed, and in many cases, entirely revised to maintain legal accuracy. This additional time and attention translate into added cost of time spent in staff hours, printing costs, and attorney time.

Legal Accuracy Matters

Dates are more than just calendar entries—they can have legal significance. For example, a change in the date of a trust signing, power of attorney, or healthcare directive can impact witness requirements, notary acknowledgments, or even your chosen strategy for asset transfers. To protect the integrity of your documents, we must reprocess, reprint, and in some cases, have new documents executed.

Staffing and Scheduling Impact

Changes in appointments ripple through our office. Team members who prepare, witness, notarize, and finalize your documents all work within a carefully coordinated schedule. Last-minute changes mean their time and efforts must also be redirected—sometimes involving after-hours adjustments or delays to other clients' work.

Our Commitment to You

Our goal is always to provide exceptional service, clear communication, and legal excellence. We are committed to transparency in our fees and will always

explain any additional costs up front. We simply ask for your understanding and consideration when appointments need to be rescheduled.

In Summary:

We respectfully request as much notice as possible for any changes. By doing so, you help us protect the integrity of your legal documents and allow our team to continue delivering the personalized attention you deserve—efficiently and cost-effectively.

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” – Benjamin Franklin

Upcoming Events

Check out our website www.wilsonlawplc.com on our events page as we schedule our upcoming events! Also look for us on our Facebook page and our social media. We hope to see you at some of our local events below. Enjoy your February!

73rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show

Sunday, February 1st from 10:00am-5:00pm

Virginia Beach Convention Center

902 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA

Join the Norfolk chapter of the Izaak Walton League at the Virginia Beach Convention Center for the 73rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show. This Boat Show provides fun for family and friends to learn more about affordable boating. Come browse boats and jet skis to check out all the latest 2026 models and customs. Boat dealers from all over the state will be there and ready to make a deal. Tickets are \$10 and children under 12 get in free. To buy tickets and for more information, [click here](#).

H.O.P.E Foundation’s February Donation & Packing Drive

Saturday, February 7th from 9:30am-11:30am

Edgar Allan Poe Conference Room at Russell Memorial Library

2808 Taylor Road, Chesapeake, VA

Join H.O.P.E Foundation to help pack and prepare hygiene items to provide for local students through their School Adoption Program. All ages are welcome,

but 15 & under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Provide a helping hand sorting, organizing, and packing hygiene packs to assist students in need across Richmond and Hampton Roads. Some items needed are deodorant, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, lotion, chapstick, hair combs, and pocket tissue. For more information about this drive, [click here](#).

Winter Carnival

Saturday, February 7th from 12:00pm-5:00pm

401 Oriana Road, Newport News, VA

Bring your friends and family to this exciting winter wonderland with carnival themed activities for all. This free event is full of fun crafts like face painting, hair tinseling, and other kids' crafts! There will be an outdoor roller-skating rink, with or without skating experience, come make long, lasting adventurous memories. Food trucks, mechanical carnival rides, bounce houses, and strolling consumed characters will be featured at this event. Come join a DJ who is guaranteed to keep you moving and warm if you're cold, as well as Ben & Jerry's providing free hot chocolate and caramel apples! For more information about this event, [click here](#).

2nd Saturday's Adoption Event

Saturday, February 14th from 11:00am-1:00pm

Nautical Dog

5102 Main Street, Williamsburg, VA

Come join Heritage Humane Society at Nautical Dog on the second Saturday of every month to meet your new best friend! With numerous adoptable dogs, come support the Heritage Humane Society in providing special and safe homes for dogs looking for loving families. Whether you're looking to adopt or looking to provide support for dogs in need, this event is guaranteed uplift not only your spirits but also the dogs! To read more about this event, [click here](#).

Hampton Roads/Peninsula Valentine's Day Dance Party

Virginia Down Syndrome Association

Saturday, February 14th from 1:00pm-3:00pm

1017 Todds Lane, Hampton, VA

Join the Virginia Down Syndrome Association for an afternoon of great fun and dancing! With drinks and some snacks provided, bring your family and friends to this free event to socialize, dance, and have an exciting afternoon. There will

be picture taking and crafts featured as well. Whether you are dressed up or dressed casual, be sure to come out so you don't miss any of the excitement! For more information about this event and to sign up to bring snacks or to volunteer, [click here](#).

Beers, Bouquets, & Burgers, with Live Music from Bubba Ward

Saturday, February 14th from 12:00pm-10:00pm

Gloucester Brewing Company

6778 Main Street, Gloucester, VA

Come join Gloucester Brewing Company for a Valentine's celebration out of this world! With live music, flowers, and more. Families and friends are guaranteed to have an amazing time. Featuring live music from Bubba Ward between 7:00pm to 9:00pm, all are welcome to dance their worries away till the night ends! For more information for this event, [click here](#).

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet

Saturday, February 21st from 9:00am-11:00am

833 Marvin Avenue, Norfolk, VA

Come visit Colonial Heights Church of Christ for their free Food Pantry and Clothes Closet every 3rd Saturday of each month. Families and friends are welcome to come and grab free food and clothes to help to stay warm in this chilling weather. There will be clothing for all ages and no appointment or fee is necessary. Whether you are in need or looking to help others in need, Colonial Heights Church of Christ is looking to spread joy and comfort for all! For more information, [click here](#).

Yorktown Market Days – Winter Market

Saturday, February 28th from 10:00am-2:00pm

331 Water Street, Yorktown, VA

Come visit Yorktown for their Winter Market full of cozy creations from local artists and vendors. Filled with locally grown and crafted goodies, families and friends are guaranteed to find something to their liking. From ranges of fresh baked breads, candles, and even gourmet chocolates, something will be there to satisfy your cravings! Dogs are encouraged, as there will be a range of dog treats sure to put a big smile on your pup! [Check out more information here](#).



Did you read our blog this month?

Be sure to stay up to date with the latest news from Wilson Law by [clicking here](#).

Love Wilson Law?

Don't keep us a secret! We love referrals and knowing that you loved our services. Don't wait to bring someone else into our client family!



Recipe Corner

Raspberry Clafoutis

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted, plus more for greasing the dish
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
- Kosher salt
- 3 large eggs
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 1/2 pints raspberries (3 cups)
- Powdered sugar, for dusting

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter a 9-inch gratin dish. In a bowl, whisk the flour, sugar, and a pinch of salt. Whisk in the eggs, butter, and lemon zest until smooth. Add the milk and whisk until light and very smooth, about 3 minutes. Pour the batter into the gratin dish and top with the raspberries.
2. Bake for about 30 minutes, until the clafoutis is set and golden. Let cool slightly. Dust with powdered sugar, cut into wedges, and serve.

**Recipe courtesy of foodandwine.com*

Learn More On Our Website



Attorney Donna L. Wilson

Before practicing law, Donna was a teacher and Special Education Consultant. Her lifelong interest in law, in combination with her experiences working to help families with special needs issues, led her to the specialized area of estate planning. Her ability to communicate effectively allows her to explain the intricacies of estate planning to her clients in a manner in which they can easily comprehend, enlightening them as to the infinite resources available to them in the designing of their estate plan.

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