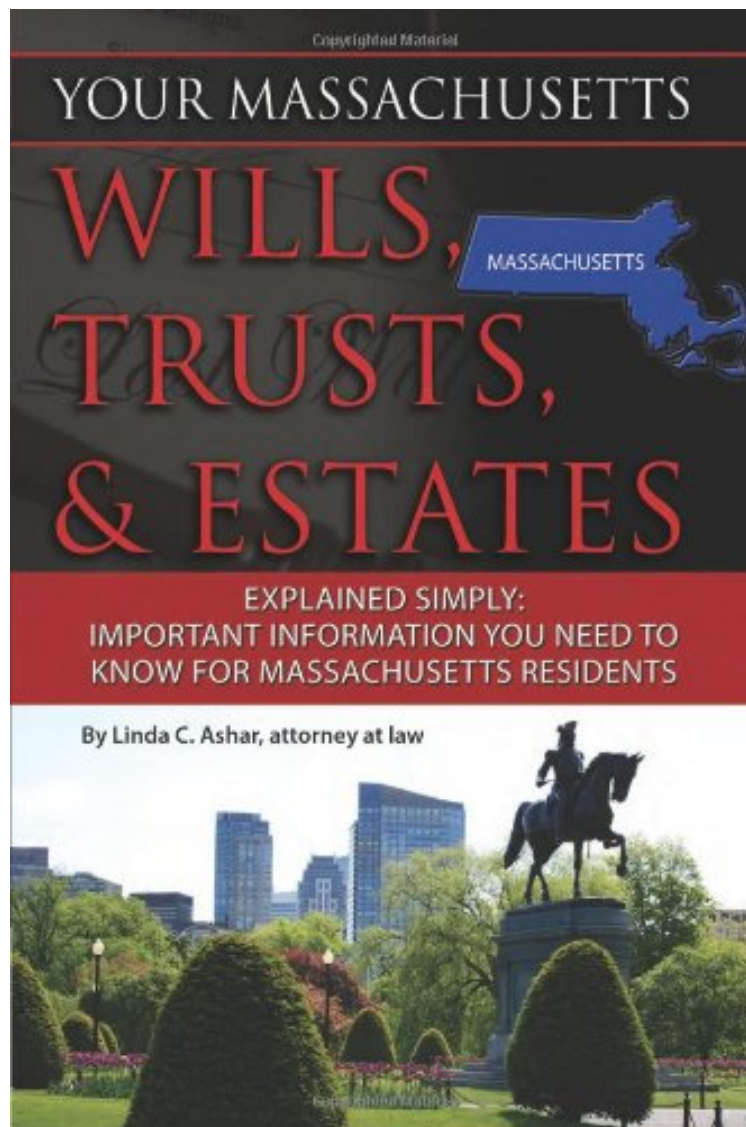


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Your Massachusetts Wills, Trusts, Estates Explained Simply: Important Information You Need to Know for Massachusetts Residents (Back-To-Basics)

Linda C Ashar

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0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I am a happy camper. By Myron LExcellent, 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Dr, Whogood 17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Wills, Trusts, Estates By KGHThis book is about wills, trusts and estates for Massachusetts. lists more than a dozen titles similar to this, with the names of other states substituted for Massachusetts. The covers look similar, with scenic images specific for each state. The author has practiced law before the Ohio and Federal Bars. The copyright on this book is 2012. I am not a lawyer or a resident of Massachusetts. However, I expect to become a party in the probate of an estate in Massachusetts within the next few years, so I bought this book to be better informed about wills, trusts and estates under Massachusetts law. On July 1, 2011, a sweeping codification of Massachusetts probate law became effective as the Massachusetts version of the Uniform Probate Code (MUPC). The majority of chapters and statutes on the prior probate law were repealed. The new code is Chapter 190B of the Massachusetts General Laws. Among the many changes, the 'executor' has been replaced by a 'personal representative'. A new position of 'magistrate' has been created to supplement the probate judge. There are many, many other changes, the result of twenty years of debate in the Massachusetts General Court (legislature). The book reviewed here makes no reference to MUPC: personal representative, magistrates, new procedures, and so forth. There are five references in the bibliography. The one for 'Massachusetts Probate Code' cites the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics web page. The Massachusetts Probate court does have a web site where most forms can be downloaded as pdf files, and current schedules of fees are posted. The other references are to the IRS, eHow, livingtrustnetwork, and harrisinteractive. Chapter 11, 'Planning Your Estate: Last Will and Testament in Massachusetts' cites Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 209, on real and personal property of husband and wife. Each chapter begins with a photograph of a scene from Massachusetts. This appears to be about the most specific this book is about Massachusetts. There is an appendix containing estate-planning worksheets and another with a glossary of terms. There is a lot of common sense information about wills, trusts and estates. I don't know how these legal documents can be drafted without reference to current probate law. There can be a lot of routine work that goes into creating a will, trust or estate, such as inventoring property. This can be the basis of a formal document drafted by a lawyer. If your goal is to gather the information that a lawyer may need, this book could be useful. If you want to understand how wills, trusts and estates are treated under the probate code in Massachusetts, you will need to look elsewhere.

Few people want to think about what would happen to their families if they become disabled or die; however, planning for these occurrences in advance will reduce potential stress on your family later in life. The right plan can protect the value of your estate and spare your loved ones unnecessary hassles and legal conflicts. This book will take the guesswork out of planning your estate and help you finally understand the complex processes. Your Massachusetts Wills, Trusts, Estates Explained Simply will help you glide through this complicated process. This book has been adapted to offer Massachusetts residents state-specific advice for estate planning. Author Linda C. Ashar, attorney at law, has crafted an estate-planning primer that allows Massachusetts residents to become more informed and more involved during the process. Your Massachusetts Wills, Trusts, Estates Explained Simply will provide all the information you need to choose, set up, and execute a will, trust, or estate. You will learn the legal terminology, including beneficiary, probate, trustor, trustee, assets, guardianship, and executor. You will also learn about trust agreements, trust property, settlement costs, life insurance, durable powers of attorney, marital deductions, gift splitting, survivorship deeds, gift tax issues, generation skipping transfer tax, tax deferred accounts, and advance directives. Atlantic Publishing is a small, independent publishing company based in Ocala, Florida. Founded over twenty years ago in the company president's garage, Atlantic Publishing has grown to become a renowned resource for non-fiction books. Today, over 450 titles are in print covering subjects such as small business, healthy living, management, finance, careers, and real estate. Atlantic Publishing prides itself on producing award winning, high-quality manuals that give readers up-to-date, pertinent information, real-world examples, and case studies with expert advice. Every book has resources, contact information, and web sites of the products or companies discussed. This Atlantic Publishing eBook was professionally written, edited, fact checked, proofed and designed. The print version of this book is 288 pages and you receive exactly the same content. Over the years our books have won dozens of book awards for content, cover design and interior design including the prestigious Benjamin Franklin award for excellence in publishing. We are proud of the high quality of our books and hope you will enjoy this eBook version.

About the Author Linda C. Ashar is a lawyer, educator, horse breeder, freelance writer, and artist. She has practiced law for more than 25 years before the Ohio and Federal Bars. She is a senior shareholder in the firm of Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook, Batista Co. in Avon, Ohio. In addition to her Juris Doctor in law, she holds a Master of Arts in special education and a Bachelor of Arts in English. She is a professional writer and has authored 101 Ways to Score Higher on Your LSAT: What You Need to Know About the Law School Admission Test Explained Simply, The Complete Power of Attorney Guide for Consumers and Small Businesses: Everything You Need to Know Explained

Simply, an estate planning book series with Atlantic Publishing Group, poetry, and several magazine and journal articles, including a collection on Suite101.com. She is an adjunct professor at DeVry University and Keller Graduate School and a frequent speaker at law seminars. Reach her at ashar@hbr.net or lashar@wickenslaw.com.