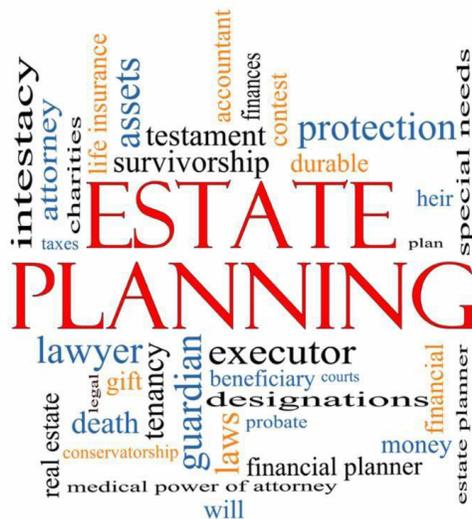


In this month's Estate Update, read a new article from TPC founder Helena S. Mock, Esq. about the importance of estate planning for everyone, not only those who have concerns about estate taxes. Plus, join us for another monthly mind game to keep your brain refreshed in these hot summer months!

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## July 2017 News

### Estate Taxes Are Not the Only Reason to Plan



Today, 99.8% of estates owe no estate tax at all, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. Only the estates of the wealthiest 0.2% of Americans —roughly 2 out of every 1,000 people who die — owe any estate tax in 2017. This is because of the significant increase in the estate tax exemption over the past fifteen years. As a result, the focus for many people has shifted from minimizing estate taxes to minimizing capital gains and income taxes. However, estate planning is about more than just minimizing taxes; it's about planning for life. ...

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Monthly Mind Game



Join us this month for an electronic twist on a classic favorite: the jigsaw puzzle! With this version, you will never have to worry about losing one of the pieces!

Click [here](#) for the link to the puzzle. This website offers "The Daily Jigsaw," which you can access from the link above. Once you click on the puzzle you want to build, you can select the number of pieces you want to make it as easy or challenging as you would like.

Remember, there is evidence that doing a variety of puzzles which strengthen different parts of your brain can help delay or prevent dementia. Taking even just a few minutes a day to exercise your brain in a new way can help decrease your likelihood of developing this debilitating disease.

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### In Case You Missed It Last Time...

#### Domestication of Foreign Adoptions in Virginia



The adoption process can occur internationally or domestically. Inter-country adoption occurs when a child from a foreign country is adopted by parents from another country. Each country and state has its own rules with respect to the adoption process. Many countries, including the United States, are part of The Hague Adoption Convention, and in those countries, families are required to use an accredited adoption agency to obtain an IH-3 Visa. This Visa allows the adopted child to become a naturalized citizen. <sup>1</sup> However, for adoptive parents who are United States citizens, the adoption of their child in a foreign country is not an automatic vehicle to U.S. citizenship...

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anyone you think we can help, please don't keep us a secret. Your referrals are our greatest compliments!

Sincerely,

**Helena S. Mock, Esq.**  
**Erin A. Smith, Esq.**

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