

Fall 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

SGMC - Legal News

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Areas of Practice:

- **Family Law**
- **Real Estate**
- **Bankruptcy**
- **Civil Matters**
- **Probate**
- **Labor**
- **Employment**
- **And more.**

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Quick Legal Tips

Be careful if you co-sign a loan for a family member or friend. If that person stops making the loan payments, you will have to. Can you afford that?

Avoid payday loans. Interest rates are excessive and can exceed 300%.

Carry automobile insurance. Without it, you can be fined \$500 and lose your license.

You cannot return a car within 3 business days of purchase. Don't buy a car from a dealer expecting to return it if not satisfied. There is no 3-day right to cancel.

Pay your child support. You can lose your driver's license if you fail to pay support.

Past criminal arrest? Did you know that you can remove or hide a prior criminal arrest through the

process of expungement or sealing?

Avoid income tax refund loans. Getting your tax refund the same day you file your return is costly. The fees and interest charged are typically high.

Shop around for your mortgage. Get a written estimate of the costs and fees for each mortgage. Compare the interest rate and the costs.

What is a Power of Attorney ?

The purpose of a power of attorney is to name someone to act on your behalf when you are not able to do so. In Illinois, there are two statutory forms for Powers of Attorney. One covers your financial decisions and the other addresses your health care decisions.

Having a power of attorney for property will allow you to name a family member or friend to assist you with your financial decisions when you cannot. The person you name becomes your

agent. Your agent can handle payment of your bills, file your medical insurance claims, apply for your social security benefits and file your income tax returns. Your agent would handle all your day-to-day financial matters when you can't.

Having a separate power of attorney for health care allows you to name a person you trust to make medical decisions for you. These decisions can include when to stop your medical treatment. By naming an agent, you

decide what's best for you. The medical decision is not left for the court when your family and doctors cannot agree what is the best course of treatment.

Remember don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today. Having these documents will make life easier for you and your loved ones.

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