



The Retirement Trust – Ensure Bloodline, Creditor and Spousal Protection

September 2017

For many clients, retirement assets (IRAs, 401k, Annuities, etc.) are among the largest assets that they own. As such, it's important to plan properly for retirement plans. Whether you name your children as direct beneficiaries or you name a Retirement Trust can have very major implications. Naming children as direct beneficiaries affords them NO protection from spouses and creditors and does not guarantee that the balance of the retirement account will pass to the grandchildren at the time of the child's death.

On the other hand, a Retirement Trust will protect the retirement assets from the child's creditors, divorcing spouses and ensure that it will pass down the bloodline to the grandchildren. Depending on how important these features are to you and your estate planning objectives, a Retirement Trust may be important for you to establish.

If you would like more information on how this great tool works, please schedule a consultation with one of the estate planning attorneys at the Law Office of James F. Roberts & Associates, APC at (714) 282-7488



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September Fun DIY Craft

What You'll Need To Make A Wine Cork Pumpkin

- 25 recycled wine corks
- Orange acrylic paint
- Paint brush
- Hot glue gun
- Craft knife
- Green felt
- Scissors
- Jute twine



Dilute the paint with a bit of water and paint both ends of all but one cork. Allow to dry.

Arrange the corks in rows (4 on the bottom, then 5, then 6, then 5 and 4 on the top row) and hot glue them together. For best results, try to match up the corks so they're the same length in each row.

Take the one remaining cork and cut off part of it with the craft knife. Hot glue it on top as the stem. Cut leaf shapes from the green felt and hot glue them on around the "stem."

Tie a short length of twine around the stem to resemble the vine.

<https://www.mygourmetconnection.com/entertaining/how-to-make-a-wine-cork-pumpkin.php>

Pumpkin Shortbread Cookies



Pumpkin
SHORTBREAD
COOKIES



Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Demerara (or Turbinado) sugar*
- candy pumpkins

Instructions:

1. Combine butter, brown sugar and vanilla extract in the bowl of an electric mixer. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until creamy. Add flour, pumpkin pie spice and salt. Beat at low speed, scraping bowl often, until well mixed. Cover; refrigerate until firm, about 45 minutes.
2. Heat oven to 350°F. Line two sheet pans with parchment paper. Place Demerara sugar in a large shallow bowl.
3. Shape dough into 1-inch balls**. Roll dough balls in Demerara sugar and place them 2 inches apart on prepared sheet pans.
4. Bake 14-18 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Remove from oven and immediately, place a candy pumpkin in the center of each cookie. Press down gently, as far as you can. If cookie cracks when inserting pumpkin, just push it back together and hold in place for 2-3 seconds. Cool completely.

<https://thecafesucrefarine.com/pumpkin-shortbread-cookies/>

Grandfield Tax Corner By David Hilliard, E.A.

Are you or a loved one in the market for a new job? If so you should be aware that job searching expenses can be deducted on your federal tax return.

There are a few restrictions to consider:

1. Your job search is limited to your current line of work. So there is no deduction if you are changing careers or if this is your first job.
2. There cannot be substantial break of employment between jobs. If you left your job to go on a 5 year trek around Europe, your expenses would not be deductible.
3. Job search expenses are reported as a miscellaneous Itemized deduction. This category of deduction is subject to a 2% reduction based on your Adjusted Gross Income. So those with high income or those who do not itemize may be out of luck.

What expenses are deductible?

- Costs for preparing and posting your Resume
- Travel expenses including transportation, meals and lodging.
- Job placement or employee agency fees
- Printing and mailing costs

What expenses are not deductible?

- Reimbursed Job costs
- Purchasing a new outfit or computer used for the search
- Home office expenses



For more information on job searching expense and other tax issues, contact the tax professionals at Grandfield Tax and Business Services, INC. 714-921-2790

Next Monthly Seminar will be in September 2017



Every month, we conduct a free seminar designed to teach about the benefits of creating an estate plan. The seminars are held on-site at our Anaheim office inside of our “classroom”. We offer light snacks and refreshments to the attendees and the group is often small and intimate, which allows for questions to be asked comfortably and for a very relaxed environment. Please encourage your loved ones to attend the seminar so that they may learn more about the estate planning process and benefits. The next seminar will be on the evening of September 14th , 2017. We look forward to seeing your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors!

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