



Lacey Rezanka Discusses Probate Avoidance and Estate Planning for Families in Melbourne, Florida

June 17, 2026

MELBOURNE, FL - June 17, 2026 -

Lacey Rezanka Attorneys at Law, an estate planning and probate law firm in Melbourne, Florida, has released educational guidance explaining how Florida families can reduce or avoid the probate process through advance planning. The firm focuses on estate planning and elder law, probate and trust administration, and real estate law for clients throughout Brevard County and the surrounding Space Coast. The guidance is presented in a firm article and companion podcast episode titled "The Truth About Avoiding Probate in Florida," featuring Managing Member Stephen J. Lacey.

According to the firm, probate in Florida is a court-supervised proceeding that typically takes nine months to a full year, and Florida statutes set a baseline of roughly three percent of an estate's value as a reasonable attorney's fee for handling it. Residents of Melbourne, Viera, and Suntree who are researching probate and trust administration options often learn that the appointment of a personal representative alone can take forty-five to sixty days, a period during which surviving family members may have limited access to estate assets. The firm's estate planning and elder law practice serves clients in Rockledge, Palm Bay, and West Melbourne who want to address these matters before a court proceeding becomes necessary.

Lacey Rezanka noted that a revocable living trust is a primary tool many Florida families use to keep assets out of probate, though a trust avoids probate only for assets that have been formally retitled into its name. For clients in Merritt Island, Cocoa Beach, and Satellite Beach, the firm's probate and trust administration practice also reviews beneficiary designations on payable-on-death and transfer-on-death accounts, which pass directly to a named person by contract when the designations are kept current. The firm's real estate practice addresses how Florida homestead law and joint ownership, including tenancy by the entirety for married couples and joint tenancy with right of survivorship for other co-owners, affect how property in Indian River County, Indian Harbour Beach, and Titusville passes at death.

"Probate in Florida is a court-supervised process, and Florida statutes generally require an estate to be administered through an attorney," said Stephen J. Lacey, Managing Member of Lacey Rezanka, who earned an LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida and has practiced Florida law since 2003. "The process identifies creditors, gives them a defined window to file claims, and retitles assets to the people entitled to receive them, but it is public, it takes time, and the cost is calculated as a percentage of the estate." Lacey added that a frequent planning error his firm encounters is a trust that was never funded. "A revocable living trust lets a person manage assets during life much as before, but it only avoids probate for the assets actually placed in it. When a trust is left unfunded, the estate can end up in the same court process the plan was meant to prevent."

Lacey Rezanka is located at 6013 Farcenda Pl, Suite 101, Melbourne, Florida, and serves clients across Brevard County, including Cocoa, Cape Canaveral, and the wider Space Coast, as well as Indian River County communities such as Vero Beach and Sebastian. The firm offers consultations for estate planning, elder law, and probate matters, and it notes that local court practices can vary across the state. Brevard County now requires an Affidavit of Heirs identifying an estate's heirs during probate administration, a requirement the firm reviews with families in Melbourne and neighboring municipalities as they organize asset records and planning documents in advance.

Lacey Rezanka is an estate planning and probate law firm in Melbourne, Florida, focusing on estate planning and elder law, probate and trust administration, probate and trust litigation, and real estate law for clients throughout Brevard County and the Space Coast. The full discussion with Stephen J. Lacey is available in the firm's podcast episode and accompanying article, "The Truth About Avoiding Probate in Florida." The firm continues to provide community education on estate planning and probate topics for families across Brevard County and the Space Coast.

###

For more information about Lacey Rezanka, contact the company here: [Lacey Rezanka](mailto:Lacey.Rezanka@llr.law)
Lacey Rezanka 321-608-0890 info@llr.law 6013 Farcenda Pl, #101, Melbourne, FL 32940

Lacey Rezanka

We provide high-quality legal services with a focus on client education, efficiency and peace of mind. Our personalized approach is tailored to provide a seamless experience for each of our clients through the use of modern technology.

Website: <https://llr.law/>

Email: info@llr.law

Phone: 321-608-0890

