



February 2013

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Ask Us

TAX APPEALS

Q. I keep hearing "it's tax appeal season." If the value of my house has decreased, can I get my real estate taxes reduced?

A. The short answer is "probably." In the last few years many NJ residents have seen the fair market value of their home decline—often significantly – to the point where it makes good sense to file a real estate tax appeal. Here are some indicators that the time is right to file an appeal:

- » Homes in your area ("comparables") are selling for much less than you think your home is worth
- » Your real estate taxes were recently increased
- » You haven't filed a tax appeal in at least 5 years
- » It's before the April 1st, 2013 filing deadline


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Parental Authority

AT 18, "YOU DON'T RULE ME" RULES

In New Jersey, when a child turns 18, parents no longer have the legal authority to access the child's medical records or make health or financial decisions for the child.

Maybe you've heard the horror story of the college-bound teen who decided to instead tap his considerable UGMA/UTMA account and follow their favorite band on the road for a year. His parents thought those funds were safe, but their child had enough understanding of the law to know the money was the child's and to spend the funds as he saw fit.

Ah, it's tough letting go, but as the apron strings get snipped it's important to know you can still help your children protect their health and finances from uncertainty and risk.


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About Our Newsletter

Welcome to the February issue of our newsletter, "The Fein Print."

Our goal is to provide our clients and friends with relevant news for their legal needs, and provide links and access to the trove of resources on our website. And, of course, we are always accessible for consultation via phone and email.

Have a question, or an area of interest you'd like to see explored? Just shoot us an [email](#) and watch for our response!

Resources

The Fiscal Cliff Showdown

WHAT IT MEANS TO YOUR ESTATE PLAN



It was like the OK Corral, and if you followed the story, things got a bit "messy."

Now that the dust has cleared, the big question is: How does the 2012 Tax Relief Act affect my estate plan?

As you can imagine, there's Good News, and Bad News.

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About FSKS



We are a general practice law firm offering innovative solutions to personal and business legal issues in New Jersey and New York for more than 35 years.

From our offices in Parsippany and Toms River, we advocate for our clients in every county in New Jersey. Please visit [our website](#) to learn more.

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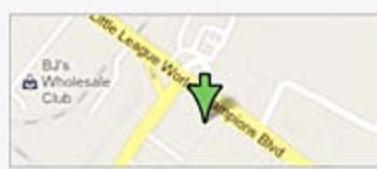
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