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**APRIL ISSUE**

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**Fun Spring Activities for Seniors**

**A Beginner's Guide to a Court Accounting**

The change of season offers the perfect opportunity to get out of the house for a bit on a daily basis. Here are a few fun spring activities that will allow you to get active, improve your mood, and even promote social interaction with others:

- **Do some gardening.** Gardening is one of the best spring activities. Even if you have some limited mobility, modifications can be made to allow you to participate in many garden activities. Pulling weeds and planting flowers increases your physical activity levels by improving flexibility and endurance. Gardening has mental health benefits too; it can relax you, reduce your stress, and give you a rewarding feeling of accomplishment.
- **Start a daily walking routine.** Walking is one of the best exercises for seniors, and spring is the perfect season to head outside and enjoy a walk through the neighborhood or nearby park. If you can, find a friend to walk with to help make this a social activity you look forward to daily.

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**What Our Clients Say About Us**

**“Marcia and her staff provide a professional yet friendly experience.”**

**-DM**

Losing a loved one doesn't only cause grief, it can also bring along a slew of new responsibilities and questions. Many people find themselves trying to figure out the next steps when handling a departed loved one's estate. Court Accounting is often part of this process but can feel overwhelming, especially during a time of mourning. Here are some important factors to consider when looking into the next phase of sorting out an estate:

**When Would I Need A Court Accounting?**

Court accounting is typically used when no will exists or the decedent did not appoint an executor. If this is the case, a court accounting of the assets and liabilities of the estate must take place by a court-appointed administrator. Even if the decedent appointed an executor before his or her death, a formal accounting will need to take place if beneficiaries do not agree upon the distribution of assets. The court-appointed administrator will complete the same process as an executor, but they have the ability to determine which assets go to each beneficiary.

**What are the Reasons A Court Accounting Would be Required?**

The three main reasons a court accounting would be required are the following: activity needs to be reported, a trustee is withholding information, or violations have taken place. Depending on your particular circumstance, you may be the one who is asking for a court accounting, or you may be the one who is called to the court. You never know when you'll be in a position where you'll need a court accounting.

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- **Start spring cleaning tasks.** Did you know clutter can increase your stress levels? It's true! Getting organized is a great spring cleaning chore, so take a few days and start going through the storage spaces in your home and clearing out some of the items you no longer need on a daily basis. You can even get family members to help and share memories as you go through your belongings. Plus, they can help you make some decisions about what to keep and what to donate, sell, or throw away.
- **Enjoy a picnic in the park.** Pack a picnic basket with some snacks, grab a blanket, and find a grassy area to sit outside and simply bask in the sun to get some much-needed Vitamin D. Or, enjoy lunch on the patio at your favorite local restaurant or at your senior living community.
- **Feed the birds.** Bird-watching is a stimulating activity many seniors enjoy. Head to a park and feed the ducks and geese some cracked corn, or hang a bird feeder outside your window to enjoy watching them feast right in the comfort of your home.
- **Have fun with the grandkids.** Children love being outside, so find some activities you can enjoy together. Some ideas include kite-flying, drawing pictures with sidewalk chalk, and spending the day at the park.
- **Shop at a local farmer's market.** Spring is a great season to visit farmer's markets in your area and wander through them. Plus, you can get some great deals on fresh fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

Source: [www.asccare.com](http://www.asccare.com)

Please contact our office for more information.†

A Beginner's Guide to a Court Accounting .....  
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**What Should A Court Accounting Include?**

In California, an estate usually means that the decedent died without a trust in place. Without a trust, it can be difficult to determine how the decedent's property should be distributed. A court accounting will be required by a state court if the decedent has assets that are not co-owned with someone else and if the total dollar amount is over \$150,000. If these circumstances apply to your situation, you will need to go to court and get the estate probated — which would include a court accounting.

**Can a Fiduciary Voluntarily File a Court Accounting Report?**

A fiduciary is a person or organization that acts on behalf of another person. It is the fiduciary's job to put their clients' interests first, as they have a duty to preserve good faith and trust. If the fiduciary is accused of not following his or her duty, then he or she may decide to voluntarily file a court accounting.

**How Much Does a Court Accounting Cost?**

Court accounting can cost anywhere from \$1,000 to \$25,000 depending on how complex the case is and how many assets the deceased owned. If a person has two small bank accounts with very few deposits or expenses, it is a simple accounting, and the fee would be minimal. On the other hand, if there is a case where someone had rentals, classic cars, cash accounts, brokerage accounts, and beneficiaries taking money out of the account before the trustee got a hold of the account, then the case is much more complicated. This type of case will take more time and effort to complete.

**How Long Does A Court Accounting Take?**

When it comes to preparing for the process of a court accounting, each case is unique and can take anywhere from weeks to years. The deadline to prepare and submit the estate's final accounting is set by the court. The final accounting will show the beginning inventory, all additions and subtractions, and the ending inventory that can be distributed to the beneficiaries. This process can vary depending on the kind of assets attached to the estate and the availability of the documentation of those assets.

Source: [www.mcampbellcpa.com](http://www.mcampbellcpa.com)

Please contact our office for more information.†



**Easter**  
 APRIL 4, 2021

**Earth Day**  
 APRIL 22, 2021



“Flowers don’t worry about how they’re going to bloom. They just open up and turn toward the light. And, that’s what makes them beautiful.”

~Jim Carrey



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