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# The State of the Estate

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## Candy Corn Trivia

Though chocolate is hands-down my favorite sweet treat, I always look forward to enjoying some candy corn every fall. What, exactly, is this stuff? I did a little bit of research and found that candy corn was invented in 1888 and is currently made by the same company that makes Jelly Bellies. (They even make a candy corn-flavored jelly bean.)

The basic recipe uses sugar, fondant, corn syrup, vanilla flavor, and marshmallow creme. The factory melts it, then runs it through molds to create each individual kernel. As the final step, kernels are tumbled, glazed, and waxed. That's a lot of work for a candy that sold for 25 cents per pound in 1950.

My friend Linda serves bowls of an addictive, yet very simple, mix of candy corn and salted peanuts every fall in her hair salon.

If you want to create a cool looking treat this fall, you could try Candy Corn Popsicles from The Girl Inspired's blog. (<http://thegirlinspired.com/candy-corn-popsicles/>.) She uses a layer of Greek yogurt at the bottom, freezes it for five minutes, adds a layer of orange juice, which she freezes for 5 minutes, then finishes with a layer of pineapple juice.



*Happy Halloween!*

# Preparing for the Inventory & Appraisal (Steps to take to be ready)

Throughout the probate process there are lots of things that take time, but one of the most important is the Inventory and Appraisal. We spend a great deal of time working with clients to help them to prepare for this document and all the items that have to be counted, collected, and organized in order to complete this portion of things.



Here are some steps that will help you to prepare for what has to be submitted to the court:

1. Research any bank or brokerage accounts that you think your loved one may have had. You will need to know what banks to contact, and then do the following:
  - a. Once you have been issued your letters of administration or your letters testamentary you will need to get Bank and brokerage statements depending on the title of the accounts.
  - b. You will need take your letters to the bank and request Date of Death statements. These must be complete (all pages) "Duplicate Original" statements.
2. You will need to gather any deeds to real property in California.
3. You will need to gather titles to any vehicles, boats, or other personal property that has a title or certificate of ownership.
4. You should make a list of all household items and what you think they are worth. (Remember that you should only list things that are of significant value. This includes things like guns, collectibles, jewelry, and art). Taking photos to submit for items that have to be valued by the probate referee is also very helpful.
5. Once you have all these items, then you will either submit this information to your attorney, or if you are representing yourself you will need to complete the form DE-160 and then submit it to the probate referee that has been appointed by the court.
6. Once you or your attorney receives a copy back of this form from the probate referee, then it can be filed with the court.



## HOW TO MAKE SHRUNKEN APPLE PUNCH



## Shrunken Apple Punch

<https://realfood.tesco.com/step-by-step/how-to-make-shrunken-apple-punch.html#VdxYOSmjBe7uUrzE.99>

This is a great option that is not too sweet and just the right amount of scary for Halloween for all ages!!! (And a great way to sneak in some fruit too!)

### 1. Make the heads

Squeeze the juice of 3 lemons into a large bowl. Peel 6 red apples, core and halve lengthways. Using a small sharp knife and a melon baller, create different faces and expressions on the apples (the apples will shrink so don't be afraid to carve large features). Once carved, make sure to completely coat and rest the apples in the lemon juice until you are ready to bake.

### 2. Bake

Preheat the oven to gas  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 120°C, fan 100°C, and place your 12 'heads' on a lined baking tray. Bake in the oven for 2 hours or until they are partially dried and have a shrunken effect.

### 3. Make the punch

Heat 500ml (17fl oz) of apple juice, 1 cinnamon stick and 2 star anise, to just below a simmer. Turn off the heat and leave to infuse for at least an hour. Once the 'heads' are out of the oven, reheat the apple juice and add 1 litre (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pt) of cider (use ginger ale if you are making for children) and heat until just under a simmer. Add in 100ml (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ fl oz) spiced rum, if you like.

### 4. Serve and enjoy

Once the cider is warm, add the heads – they should float up to the surface. Use a ladle to serve everyone a glass of cider with one head floating on top.



# Neutrals Are Not Boring

Neutrals (white, greys, beige, browns, etc.) were prominent at this fall's High Point Home Furnishings Market. As celebrity decorator Candace Olson put it: "Beige doesn't have to be boring. White is classic and timeless. You can layer textures, add high contrast to quiet neutrals, and create spacious, airy, calm and restful spaces—all by using neutrals as your starting point."

Another celebrity decorator, Barclay Butera, was also states the benefits of neutrals, noting that they can create a simple but elegant style for a room. You lay down a base with a large piece of furniture and then you can build seasonal or trend colors around and on top of that.



Invest in a high quality grey sofa and chair, for example, and then you can cost-effectively add contrast and interest with pillows and an accent chair that can be changed out when you want a new look. You'll get great return from your investment in the longer-lasting sofa and other chair.

Neutrals are safe to traditionalists and those who are not risk takers. They make it easy to experiment with color on smaller furnishings, lamps, wall art and other pieces that easily can be changed out.

The trend-watchers told us that millennials are "fearless" about using color, but don't want to commit to them for the long term. They "flirt with color," as one speaker put it. Again, a reason to use neutrals as a base in your room.

Investing in a good quality neutral base can leave you the freedom to really express yourself with your other furnishings. And, those neutral pieces can be customized to fit your personality, physical characteristics, and taste. You can choose your legs, your arm style, your seat depth, the back height, the firmness of the cushions, trim and other features.

The use of neutrals also fits well into the desire of some to bring nature indoors. Much of Mother Nature's colors are neutrals or compliment neutrals.

So when you are investing in that one or two pieces that you want to last and endure, and you are not sure about taking a risk on a color that you may not want for as long as you want that piece to last, think neutral. And use it to show of your own style with how you finish off the room.

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**Design Tips**  
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**Happy 32nd  
Birthday to  
our paralegal,  
Rosey Garcia!**

This newsletter is intended to educate the general public about probate, trusts, wills, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained in this publication, you should consult with experienced, competent counsel regarding your specific situation.

## Mason Jar Craft Fun for October!

Who doesn't love having cozy and inviting decorations set-up for guests stopping by! This fun and easy craft project gives you a chance to showcase not only your fall colors in decorating but also your crafty ability!

Here are lots of options of fun crafts that you can create with mason jars and lids to help make your home a welcoming fall getaway.

You simply need paint, a hot glue gun, twine, cloth, and whatever type of decoration you choose to match your style!

You can decorate for Halloween or Fall or both! Here are some examples of some great ideas!

Send us pictures of what you decide to do to decorate for Fall in your home on our Facebook @TheGrossmanLawFirm, on Twitter @GrossmanLawAPC or on Pinterest at [www.pinterest.com/GrossmanLawAPC/](http://www.pinterest.com/GrossmanLawAPC/)!

