

Office of the District Attorney
Stone Mountain Judicial District



Sherry Boston
District Attorney



Sherry Boston
District Attorney

- Assumed Office in January 2017
- Former DeKalb County Solicitor-General
- Former Defense Attorney
- First woman appointed as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Dunwoody
- Served as an Associate Magistrate Judge for DeKalb County
- Graduate of Villanova University and Emory University School of Law



SHERRY BOSTON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Office of the DeKalb County District Attorney • Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
556 N McDonough Street • Suite 700 • Decatur, GA 30030 • Phone: 404-371-2561

MISSION

The mission of the Office of the DeKalb County District Attorney is to safeguard our community through vigorous and fair prosecution of felony offenses occurring within the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit.

We seek to accomplish this goal by preserving the dignity and best interests of our victims while using smart prosecution strategies that balance offender accountability with prevention, intervention, and restorative justice.

We believe in the power of engagement and in building relationships with community partners for the betterment of DeKalb County.

VISION

We endeavor to restore faith in the criminal justice system and disrupt cycles of violence, trauma, and recidivism in our pursuit of public safety and justice.



ENGAGE
PROTECT
RESTORE



Office Mission

Protect citizens, engage in crime prevention measures, and work to provide peace of mind to DeKalb County residents.

Ensure residents are protected by engaging in legally and ethically sound activities and operating efficiently while pursuing justice.

Emphasize assisting victims and preventing crime through community education and engagement programs.

Offer peace of mind by treating all DeKalb County citizens fairly and equitably and with dignity and respect.



Office Overview

- 270+ Staff Members
- 16 Units/10 Divisions
 - Handle over 6000 cases per year
- Victim-Witness Assistance Program
- POST Certified Investigators
- Administrative Support
- Juvenile Court
 - Handles over 4000 cases per year

Types of Common Scams



Sweepstakes

Home Improvement

Computer Repair

Grandparent

Arrest

Funeral

Insurance



Prevention is the Best Protection

Scams

Hang up on telemarketers and phone solicitors.

Check your bank statements each month.

Guard your personal information.

If you won a prize, you would not have to pay taxes in advance of receiving the prize.

Do not give information to someone who calls you on the phone.

Check with family or friends to see if they are incarcerated before giving money for bail.

Do not let anyone other than a trusted person have access to your bank accounts.

The IRS does not demand nor accept payments by phone or prepaid debit cards.

Put yourself on the national
DO NOT CALL registry

donotcall.gov

Connect with AARP's
Fraud Watch Network

aarp.org

Protecting
Yourself





Prevention is the Best Protection

Home Repair Fraud

Do not hire anyone without doing a reference or background check.

Get the price in writing (a contract).

Do not let anyone rush you into a decision to do repairs.

Check with the Better Business Bureau.

Common Repair Scams

“That branch or tree needs to come down.”

“You have a loose shingle on your roof.”

“I have extra asphalt that I can use to repair the cracks in your driveway.”

“Your house needs to be power-washed.”

Connect with the Better Business Bureau

bbb.org



Protecting Yourself



Protecting Yourself



Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

Predators

Predators deliberately target elder and disabled adult person and display a consistent pattern of victimization.

Opportunists

Opportunists (usually family members) take advantage of elder and disabled adult persons when they find themselves in control of that person's resources.



Prevention is the Best Protection

Mind and Body

Good health starts with your brain.

Stay involved and connected in the community.

Keeping your brain active and engaged increases its vitality and builds reserves of brain cells and connections.

Exercise. It's less of a chore when you do it with people you enjoy, but start slowly if you haven't exercised in a while.

Read, write, play games, and learn new things.

Proper nutrition is vitally important.

Follow your passion and use your skills. Careers after retirement can be rewarding.

Wellness is a matter of body and mind.



Prevention is the Best Protection

Mind and Body

Poor mobility (which can be caused by foot problems) can lead to falls. Consider installing safety devices, such as grab rails and ramps to prevent accidents.

If you are frail, consider wearing an alert device so that if you fall or become ill, someone can be contacted immediately.

Connect with the
Alzheimer's Association

alz.org



Connect with the
National Alliance on
Mental Health

resources@namiga.org



Protecting
Yourself



Connect with the Georgia's Aging & Disability Resource Connection

dhs.georgia.gov

Protecting Yourself



— GEORGIA'S —
Aging & Disability
RESOURCE CONNECTION

Connect with the Georgia Senior Legal Hotline
(for persons 60+)

404-657-9915

1-888-257-9519 (toll free)



Division of Aging Services Elderly Legal
Assistance Program (ELAP)

aging.georgia.gov



Protecting
Yourself





EMORY
UNIVERSITY

**Alzheimer's Disease
Research Center**



Prevention is the Best Protection

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

What is being presented is information, not LEGAL ADVICE.

You may also choose to contact a lawyer who specializes in Elder Law.

For questions regarding preparation of specific legal documents, please contact a lawyer who specializes in Wills and Estate Planning.

If you need an attorney referral, contact the State Bar of Georgia at 404-527-8700.

Types of Legal Documents



Last Will and Testament

Living Trust

Powers of Attorney

Advance Healthcare Directive



Prevention is the Best Protection

Last Will and Testament

It's a legal document that helps ensure that your desires regarding the distribution of your property will be honored upon your death.

It must be signed by you.

It must be signed by two witnesses.

It is highly suggested that the witnesses not be named heirs in the Will.





Prevention is the Best Protection

Living Trust

It's a legal document that will allow your estate to bypass the probate process, thus, the transference of property can occur immediately.

It can also take effect if you are incapacitated and unable to manage your financial and legal obligations.

It is expensive to set up.

You will still need a Legal Will.



Types of Powers of Attorney



General

Special or Limited

Durable or Springing

Healthcare

Tax

Vehicle



Prevention is the Best Protection

Power of Attorney

It's a legal document that allows a person to act on your behalf when you are unable to do so.

You can choose the person you want to act on your behalf by utilizing a Power of Attorney.

The agent (chosen person) is managing your affairs when you are unable to do so.





POWER OF ATTORNEY

Gives broad power to an agent to act on your behalf in many areas of your life. If you become mentally incapacitated, this document becomes invalid.

General Power of Attorney



POWER OF ATTORNEY

Special or Limited Power of Attorney

Specifically sets what power an agent may exercise. It is usually a specific act. The power usually terminates at either the completion of the assignment or at a specified date set by you.



POWER OF ATTORNEY

Durable (Springing) Power of Attorney

Gives broad power to an agent to handle all your needs in your best interests. This power is usually given to prepare for the possibility that you may become mentally incompetent or incapacitated. You can specify that it will not go into effect until a doctor certifies your incompetence or incapacity.

Who Determines Capacity?



A physician or licensed psychologist

An attorney

A judge

An appropriate government official

The person you authorized



Prevention is the Best Protection

Advance Healthcare Directive

It's a legal document that allows you to consider the quality of life you want to have should you become incapacitated and unable to make medical decisions on your behalf.

You can appoint an agent to carry out healthcare decisions.

You can make decisions about withholding or withdrawing life support and accepting or refusing nutrition and/or hydration.

You can pre-select a guardian if a court determines that a guardian is necessary.





Prevention is the Best Protection

Advance Healthcare Directive Requirements

You must be of sound mind.

You must see the witnesses sign the document. The witnesses do not need to see each other sign, nor do they need to see you sign the document.

You must be 18+ or an emancipated minor.

Witnesses cannot knowingly be in line to inherit anything or benefit from your death.

You must sign the document or expressly direct someone else to do it.

Witnesses cannot be directly involved in your healthcare.

You must have two witnesses who are of sound mind and 18 or older.

Only one witness can be employed with, be an agent, or on the medical staff of the healthcare facility where you are receiving your healthcare.

Protecting Yourself



Advance Healthcare Directive Considerations

Choose an agent who will act on your behalf.

If you know that a person does not want to serve as the agent or will attempt to make contradictory decisions and decisions inconsistent with your desire and directive, then that person should not be selected.



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