



SERVICES TO

FAMILY MATTERS

GORDON S. BLAIR

LAW OFFICES | PRIVATE CLIENT

WHY

WOULD YOU BOTHER ?

Organizing and administering a family is becoming more and more comparable to running a company: variety of the issues, complexity of the tools and techniques, management of the various risks factors...

In fact, it is even more sophisticated: the challenge of running one's family is compounded by an emotional dimension which makes the most reasoned decisions often ill adapted to the real life situations.

At Gordon S. Blair Law Offices, we know how to blend a high level of technical expertise with decades of experience and know-how on Private Client matters.

Our team of experienced lawyers is familiar with the particularities of handling family affairs. In their respective areas of expertise, they have served some of the most prominent families established in Monaco and elsewhere in the world and are able to attune themselves to the needs and expectations of their clients.

Structuring of the Family

Just like a company, as soon as a family reaches a certain level, its organization needs to be crafted in a careful manner to integrate effectively the objectives of the founders or the family branches.

At Gordon S. Blair Law Offices, we are familiar with the various forms of organisation: we can advise on the best solutions, and assist at both the execution and monitoring stages.

- Family Governance

Family Charts: key matters, structuring, administering...

Family Assembly and Family Council

Communication : organisation and secretarial services

Cultural and Educational Strategies

Interaction with Family Business

- Ownership vs. Management: roles and responsibilities

- Family Office

Setting-up

Organisation: how, where...

Advisory (Consulting Services)

- Special Purpose Vehicles / Legal Entities: selecting the appropriate vehicle, jurisdiction and governance :

Trusts: where, how, Private Trust Companies, Protectors...

Foundations

Cell Companies

Family Holding Companies

Life Insurance...

Wealth protection and enhancement mechanisms

In today's environment asset protection appears to be high on the agenda of families which, as well as their members, need to protect themselves against unexpected and unfortunate situations which, in the absence of an appropriate answer, might result in considerable financial stress.

At Gordon S. Blair Law Offices, we know how to tackle these issues. Available tools include:

- Risk Mapping and Risk Control
- Conflict resolution mechanisms

Succession and Inheritance issues:

Preparing an orderly succession is often viewed as a test of real stewardship on the part of any individual. Sharing one's wealth is particularly challenging when the heirs have different profiles and marital status or where a family business is involved.

At Gordon S. Blair Law Offices, we have always been viewed as a specialist in succession matters in Monaco.

Our lawyers have been confronted with virtually any situation one can imagine in a multi-jurisdictional environment.

Proper anticipation and adjustment of pre-existing arrangements are key in this respect.

- Setting up a process, preparation, "post succession" issues
- Tax Optimization
- Trusts and Wills

Tax Compliance and Representation

This is one of the core activities of Gordon S. Blair Law Offices. Even if Monaco is viewed as a low tax jurisdiction, this does not mean that the resident of the Principality has no concern relating to taxes, depending on the location of their assets or their nationality. There are also limited tax obligations in Monaco which must be complied with. Our lawyers are fully qualified for handling these matters in the most efficient manner.

- Optimization of the tax burden
- Coordination with tax attorneys or tax accountants in other jurisdictions
- Filing of returns and compliance
- Representation in case of tax audit

Assistance to selection, coordination, and oversight of service providers

A number of service providers are involved in the handling of complex estate and the assessment of their merits and qualifications is not an easy task.

Once selected, one must ensure that they "walk the talk" and that they adequately communicate with each other so as to jointly deliver the best possible service. This is particularly challenging in an international environment.

At Gordon S. Blair Law Offices, our technical as well as our cultural and social background ensures that we are alert to this challenge and we are equipped to ensure that the various providers do not work at cross purpose and communicate to minimise coordination burden. We are used to being active in this "project management" task, in particular when it comes to dealing with the following professionals:

- Asset Managers
- Insurers
- Lawyers, Fiduciaries, Notaries...
- Others: agents, brokers...

Structuring of “Special Investments” or contributions

The proper “running” of a family goes beyond the traditional tasks of managing a portfolio or organising one’s succession.

The family members are often involved in activities of a more pleasurable nature, or, on a contrary, of a disinterested nature.

In either case, it is essential that these decisions be approached and handled with proper professional assistance.

Gordon S. Blair Law offices have developed a particular expertise in some areas which are frequently looked at by wealthy families. Examples of these areas are listed below:

- Real Estate: see specific brochure
- Yachts: see specific brochure
- Works of Art
- Philanthropy.

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