

Q. & A. Attorney

Q. Our church provides **cell phones** to some of our staff members. Should we have a written policy for their use?

A. Yes! Here are some provisions to include in a cell phone policy.

1. Cell phones should be considered ministry tools and be used for ministry-related calls.
2. Cell phones should be prohibited while driving.
3. Any contraband content found on a staff member's cell phone or content that is inappropriate in the sole discretion of the administration should be considered grounds for appropriate discipline, including termination.
4. Personal use of a ministry cell phones beyond occasional and brief use, is considered income and should be documented on the staff member's W-2 tax form.
5. Abuse of ministry cell phones or other electronic devices in violation of law or ministry policies should result in disciplinary action, including termination.



COMMENTS from across the NATION

A quick note of thanks to you all, the soldiers for Christ, the ones who are on the front lines of the battlefield. What a terrific service you had last night! Please know that I am praying for you all.
{FROM TENNESSEE}

Thank you so much for taking the time to answer my email question. I greatly appreciate all that you and your firm do to help Christians understand our rights.
{FROM ALABAMA}

Please let Bro. Gibbs know that he was such a blessing this past weekend at our church. My husband and I were challenged with his speaking. He did a great job.
{FROM NORTH CAROLINA}

Thank you, Bro. Gibbs, for coming to our church missions conference. It was a joy to meet you and to hear first-hand about your ministry and the great things that CLA is accomplishing. We are excited about how much the people of our church are talking about all the things you presented.
{FROM ILLINOIS}

Thank you so much for the great information you provided. I am thankful to God for you and your organization...what a blessing and valuable resource you are!
{FROM ALASKA}



CLA Standing For The Faith

Praise the Lord that CLA was able to help an **Alaska** human resources officer and a business owner to understand how religious expression may properly be permitted in a private workplace despite the complaints of a few individuals.

Pray for a member of a **Florida** library board who is trying to protect children from R-rated material in the local library. Her efforts are being resisted by other members of the board.

Praise the Lord that teachers in a **Texas** school are being permitted to pray together after their principal received legal information from our attorneys.

Praise the Lord that CLA was able to provide a Christian teacher in **Connecticut** with information confirming that he is required to allow students to read the Bible during free reading periods in public school.

Praise the Lord that CLA was able to assist a homeowner in **Texas** when her homeowner's association attempted to require her to remove a yard ornament merely because it contained a religious symbol.

Praise the Lord that attorneys for CLA were able to protect a Bible study group meeting at a senior center in **Missouri**.

Praise the Lord that a public school employee in **Texas** was excused from an assignment that would have violated his religious beliefs.

Praise the Lord that public schools in **North Carolina** will reconsider inappropriate changes to the history curriculum after parents and teachers objected and school board members faced an avalanche of negative emails. Pray that an appropriate curriculum will be approved.

Capitol Prayer Focus

Before being appointed to DOE by President Obama, Secretary Duncan served as CEO of the Chicago public schools. Secretary Duncan is encouraging states to lift restrictions on the number of charter schools they allow. Charter schools are semi-autonomous, government-funded, results-oriented schools that, among other things, are permitted greater freedom in curriculum and hiring decisions and are intended to allow parents more educational choices. An estimated 365,000 students around the nation are on waiting lists to get into charter schools.



Arne Duncan
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education

Pray that the Secretary and the DOE will also continue to support Christian schools and homeschooling, along with public and charter schools. Parents need to be able to choose the best educational setting for their own children. Pray that the constitutional right for parents to control the education of their children will continue to be protected in America.

CLA Defending Churches And Ministries

Pray for a church in **Alabama** that is challenging the sale of alcohol near the church property.

Pray for a church in **Florida** that has become the victim of a fraudulent contractor.

Pray for a ministry in **Wisconsin** that is dealing with the consequences of an accident that was not adequately covered by insurance.

Praise the Lord that a ministry in **Texas** has been granted permission to build a religious park despite the unfounded objections of a few neighbors.



A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERHOOD

CONTINUED

We pray for mothers to embrace motherhood and to be joyful about the task the Lord has given them. We pray that mothers everywhere will look at children as a blessing, as a gift from God, a heritage of the Lord. We pray that young mothers would not despair over the little things, like diapers and messes and scattered toys. God has given them the opportunity and the privilege to nurture the next generation for Him.

This month, the Christian Law Association celebrates mothers. Let's praise and encourage them for all the blessings they bring into our lives. My dear mother, Pearl, is in Heaven, and my wonderful wife, Glorianne, continues by my side. We celebrate forty-five years of marriage this June 12th, and she has been the perfect God-ordained wife for me. To these ladies and to others like them across our nation and around the world, I say a heart-felt, "Thank you!" and "Happy Mother's Day!"



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THE LEGAL ALERT

Protecting your freedom to train The Next Generation



New England Historical Rally

Attorney David Gibbs III preached at a rally where Christians from many churches across the New England area attended. The event was held at the historic First Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island, originally founded by Roger Williams.



A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERHOOD



I remember the shock to my family as my mother was rushed to the hospital sick with polio, the deadly and dreaded disease of the 1950's.

I was only eight years old at the time, and I did not realize how much that particular day would change my life. I would live on my grandparents' farm for the next few years as my mother fought for her life against this terrible illness. Due to the contagious nature of the disease, I was not allowed to see her except through the hospital window as my dad, sister, and I would stand outside on the balcony across from her room. I wanted so much to talk to her and give her a hug, but the hospital staff wouldn't allow any such visits. Children were not even allowed to enter hospitals, especially those with polio patients.

Three years later after my mother was released from the hospital and physical therapy, I was so saddened to see her unable to walk and only able to move her piano-playing arms with a fraction of the grace or coordination I remembered from just a few years ago. Her legs would never function again.

Despite her disabled condition, I remember my mother taking me to Sunday school where

she was a teacher, curriculum writer, and bus worker wearing her braces that my father would help her put on each morning. With the braces and using crutches she managed to "walk" short distances using her arms to support her body. She had intense pain every day of her life until the Lord graciously took her home as she napped one afternoon forty-four years later. I always knew that my mother loved my dad, my sister, and me, and most importantly, her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I know that my mom is surrounded in Heaven by many of her converts as I still receive letters from Sunday school children and adults that were led to the Lord by my mom. She started a children's Bible Club in our neighborhood and won many young children to the Lord. Her Bible Club expanded to a weekly radio program for children. They began to call her "Aunt Pearl" and the name stayed with her throughout her life. Many little ones would run up to her at church, almost knocking her over as she balanced on her crutches, saying, "Aunt Pearl, we love you!"

I've watched my own dear wife love and teach our children. For over forty years now in the CLA ministry I have been away the vast majority of nights doing cases and speaking for the ministry, as my wife has lovingly made my ministry possible and poured her energy into our children, our home, and the CLA ministry. While people frequently thank me for our ministry work, I know that God will honor her for the sacrifices she has also made.



Each morning at the Christian Law Association, our staff gathers to pray for the prayer requests that are sent to the ministry. Many of these requests are from heart-broken mothers dealing with the struggles of life that are only manageable with the power God promises. Here are just two:

A sudden cancer diagnosis five years ago took the life of D.'s husband. She still shudders when she thinks about it, because it all happened so suddenly. Practically overnight, she went from being a wife and homeschooling mother to being a single parent to three young children. With God's grace and lots of help from family and friends, D. has been able to continue homeschooling, giving her children the benefit of continued closeness and family unity.

M.'s husband has a constant battle with a drug addiction. The chaos this imposes upon their home leaves M. with the task of rearing their two children without much input from her husband. With God's grace and lots of help from her local church and family, she has persevered.

It is obviously God's plan for women to enjoy the privilege of being wives and mothers, with the full support and blessing of their husbands. But the reality of a sin-drenched world does not always make it possible to follow God's perfect plan. But God is always there to help pick up the pieces and overcome whatever difficulties any family may face.

Many American families today look very different from those of only a few generations ago. The rise of single-parent households, whether by death, divorce, or children born out of wedlock, is staggering. Entire generations of American families have departed from the traditional family model. As a result, they encounter many obstacles in their lives.

Mothers today also have unique stresses that they often face without the benefit of extended family living nearby. The work they do in the home is frequently not valued as much as the contribution of professional women in the marketplace. Even in more traditional families, lives can become so rushed that many family members also feel a void. Sometimes "home" becomes merely the place where we keep our belongings.

The reality is that mothers are fundamentally the anchor of the family. When a mother has a close

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walk with the Lord, her anchor is steadfast. Many an accomplished adult credits success in life to the encouragement of a Godly mother. Although fathers are important as well, mothers primarily set the emotional tone, or the "heart" for the family. A contented mother rejoices in her children, just as the Bible says God rejoices over us. *"He will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."* (Zephaniah, 3:17) We pray that all mothers would be able to rejoice over their children!

How does God view mothers? Proverbs 31:10 says a virtuous woman's price is far above rubies. Mothers are the nurturers of the young, and the preparers of the next generation.

Mothers not only influence their own children and families, but their influence can extend far beyond. Psalm 128:3 says, *"The wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house."* What do vines do? They grow and spread out and reach out. In a similar way, Godly mothers reach out to others, beyond their families, who need that tender touch of mothering both in their neighborhoods and among their circle of influence. CONTINUED ON BACK



What is a right?

Our government keeps finding new rights to things like privacy, pornography, abortion, and health care. But what really is a constitutional right? Americans no longer seem to be sure. Our legislators have now claimed to give all Americans a right to health care insurance—for free if they can't afford it. Many years ago, our Supreme Court found new rights to pornography and privacy. The Court also gave women the right to have abortions. Now some states are finding a new right for homosexuals to marry.

But how do America's founding documents define rights? Our Declaration of Independence says that rights are something our Creator gives us; something the government must never be allowed to take away. But our Founders never defined rights as a guarantee the government must give everyone certain things, sometimes for "free."

What rights did our Founders recognize as God-given? Basically, our Founders recognized the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit (not the accomplishment) of happiness, which some also relate to the right to own property. The First Amendment specifically identifies some of these rights. For instance, there is a right to engage in religious expression, but that doesn't mean the government must pay to construct churches. We have the right to peacefully assemble, but the government is not required to provide free transportation to meeting places. We have the right to keep and bear arms, but the government is not expected to provide free bullets. We have the right to freedom of speech, but the government is not required to pay to print newspapers or books.

A right is not a service the government can define and then force someone else to pay for. In fact, our Founders understood that our rights are related to duties we owe our Creator. What defines something as a right is whether the government must protect our obligation to perform a required duty. For instance, we have a duty to worship God as we see fit. Therefore, the government is obligated to protect our religious liberty. We have a duty to govern ourselves; therefore, we cannot be prohibited from assembling together and speaking freely.

It is beyond ironic that some Americans claim a right to abortion because, they say, the government cannot tell a woman what to do with her own body. Yet, on the other hand, many of these same Americans now claim the government must require all Americans to have health insurance for their own bodies—for free if they cannot afford it—and the government may now determine what types of medical care will be appropriate for our bodies to have in different situations.

How do these new "rights" conform to the right to life given to all Americans and to their posterity in the Declaration of Independence? They do not. The right to life requires the government to protect the lives of all Americans, but not to pay for everyone's health care, including abortions that will prematurely and unconstitutionally end the lives of our posterity.

Americans need to become educated about the rights originally recognized in our founding documents and why those God-given rights were deemed to exist. If we do not protect these constitutional rights, the government may well use new rights now being invented to take them away.

What does the Christian Law Association offer?

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- *The Legal Alert* radio program
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Publication of a monthly newsletter, *The Legal Alert*
- Free consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry office
- Capitol Prayer Initiative
- Homeschool Legal Advantage



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