



## Melissa J. Mason

### Paralegal

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One might say Melissa Mason has “law in her blood” as she began working as a legal secretary at age 16 while she was still in high school. Following graduation, she continued working for an attorney in Georgia and then for a prominent bankruptcy attorney for nine years after relocating to Southwest Florida.

Melissa obtained her Associate's Degree at Florida Southwestern College and continued her studies at Florida Gulf Coast University until the loss of her mother and a few years later her twin brother. Given that her father died when she was a child, Melissa was left with the responsibility to manage their affairs as neither her brother nor mother had a will. She did their probate without any training and then decided to pay it forward to make sure others have proper estate planning and their affairs in order.

Since 2004, Melissa has worked as a legal assistant in the area of Wills, Estates and Trusts. A few years later, she successfully fulfilled all the requirements to become a Certified Paralegal. Always striving to be more knowledgeable, Melissa completed all the requirements and was awarded the designation as an Advanced Certified Paralegal in the area of Wills, Estates and Trusts.

On the job, Melissa drafts all estate planning documents with utmost care. She has excellent communication skills but more importantly she strives to be caring, non-judgmental and empathic when clients are relating delicate subjects. Non-traditional relationships are among many of the clients she has helped. As one would expect, all discussions are handled with utmost confidentiality and expediency.

Away from work, Melissa shares her life with her husband since 1990. She helped successfully raise two steps-sons; one a UF graduate and the other an FSU graduate with an MBA from UGA. In the 90's, Melissa was a state champion powerlifter with many Florida records that continue to stand the test of time. A dedicated beach girl, she and her husband can often be spotted on a local beach, recharging their batteries. Melissa is a voracious reader of non-fiction and has worn out quite a few Kindles. She has a spoiled Maine Coon cat that allows his humans to live with him.

## Practice Areas

- Estate Planning & Trust Administration
- Estate & Trust Litigation