



WALT SHURDEN LAW

July 2017

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How do you think you compare to your 14 year old self?

By Walt Shurden

What if your teachers had assessed your personality when you were a teenager, and then you were assessed again 63 years later. Would your personality have changed?

Until recently personality research studies had focused on comparing young adults to older adults. The research on adults did not show substantial personality change even over several decades. But a recent study shows that there is substantial personality change if the starting point for the comparison is moved back from young adulthood to adolescence.

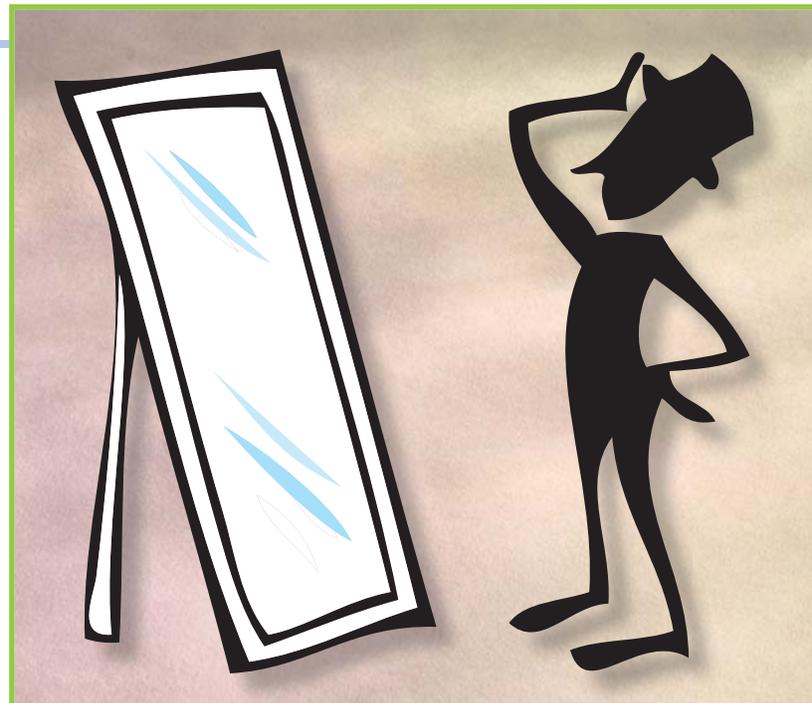
The Study¹

– In 1947 teachers in Scotland evaluated 1,208 14-year olds on six personality characteristics subsumed under the one word “dependability”. The characteristics were (1) self-confidence, (2) perseverance, (3) stability of moods, (4) conscientiousness, (5) originality, (6) and desire to excel–.

– In 2013, when the subjects who were able to be found and were willing to participate (131 of them) were 77 years old, they rated themselves (along with someone who knew them well) on the same characteristics and found that their personality at 77 bore little relationship to their 14 year old selves.

Estate Planning Impact

This information is useful when you are making a Will or Trust. Your estate plan should take into account the vulnerability of the younger members of our family. Even the most simple Last Will and Testament should provide that if a beneficiary should inherit money when they are under the age of 21, or 25, (take your pick) then their inheritance should be held in Trust. The Trustee that holds the money should be an adult whose personality has become relatively



fixed in adulthood, and who you judge to be dependable. Most young people’s financial mistakes are low-risk because they haven’t accumulated much wealth. But a direct inheritance of someone else’s wealth raises the stakes for each new financial decision the young person must face.

¹Personality stability from age 14 to age 77 years. Harris, Mathew A.; Brett, Caroline E.; Johnson, Wendy; Deary, Ian J. Psychology and Aging, Vol 31(8), Dec 2016, 862-874. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pag0000133>

Our Goal

To provide exceptional legal service to our clients.



Fourth of July Festivities

Where to find fireworks in Pinellas County

Clearwater Threshers Baseball, Monday, July 3rd.
Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Fireworks after the game.

Dunedin Blue Jays Baseball Game, Monday, July 3rd.
Game starts at 6:15 p.m. Fireworks after the game.

Free Picnic in Craig Park, Tarpon Springs, Tuesday, July 4th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – free hotdogs while they last.
Games, inflatables and live entertainment.

Free celebration at Coachman Park in Clearwater, Tuesday, July 4th. Gates open at 4:00 pm and music starts at 7:30 p.m. Local vendors and family friendly activities. Fireworks begin between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m.

Safety Harbor celebrates on Tuesday, July 4th. Patriotic parade on Main Street from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Live entertainment and food vendors start at 5:00 p.m. Fireworks start at 9:00 p.m.

St. Pete's Spa Beach Park, Tuesday, July 4th, fireworks begin at 9:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and relax.

Celebrate all day Tuesday, July 4th in Gulfport. Fun kid activities, live music and the family friendly waterfront district block party. Fireworks start at 9:00 p.m.

Join the old-fashioned Independence Day party in the park in Largo's Central Park. Live entertainment, food and activities starting at 6:00 p.m. and fireworks starting at approximately 9:15 p.m.

No-Bake Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies

Here is a fun, yummy treat you can make with the grand-kids when they are visiting this summer.

Ingredients:

- 2 Cups Sugar
- ½ cup milk
- 1 stick butter
- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 3 cups quick cooking rolled oats
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 Tbsp vanilla extract



Place sugar, milk, butter and cocoa in a saucepan over medium heat and bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Boil for one minute. Remove from heat and stir in remaining ingredients.

Drop by teaspoon on wax paper or parchment. Mixture is HOT so have the kids be careful. Leave at room temperature until cooled and hardened. Will stay fresh in a sealed container in the refrigerator for a few days.

How did July get it's name?



July is one of the two months that are named after human beings. Prior to 45 B.C. the Roman calendar was a mess. The high priest in charge of the calendar, the pontifex maximus, was so corrupt that he sometimes lengthened the year to keep certain officials in office or abbreviated it to shorten an enemy's tenure. February had

only 23 days and there was another short month that was added every couple of years to try to keep months starting the same season each year.

Julius Caesar oversaw the standardizing of the months, creating the 365-day-year and leap year every four years. When the new calendar went into effect on January 1, 45 B.C., the Roman Senate changed the name of the birth-month of Julius Caesar to July in his honor.

National Pet Fire Safety Day

Last month in our newsletter we talked about designations of “National” days, weeks, and months. We explained that many, if not most, are frivolous random days that don’t really mean anything. However, some remind us of important things we should be aware of, like National Pet Fire Safety Day on July 15.



Following is a list of ways to prevent your pet from starting a fire:

- Invest in flameless candles – Cats are notorious for starting fires when their tails turn over lit candles.
- Remove stove knobs or cover them when away – National Fire Protection Association lists a stove as the number one piece of equipment involved in pets starting fire.
- Beware of glass water bowls on wooden decks – The sun’s rays filtered through glass and water can heat up and ignite the wood beneath the bowl.

Following is a list of ways to protect your pet from fire:

- Keep pets near entrances when away from home so firefighters can easily find them.
- Keep collars on pets when you are away. In case of fire they might run away.
- Affix a pet alert sticker on a front window with the number of pets listed so firefighters will know what they are looking for.

July 15th is a good day for all of us to check that our homes and pets are safe from fire.



This Month’s Spotlight

Rose Chervitz moved to Florida from Biloxi, Mississippi with her husband and three sons in 2000. While being a stay-at-home mom she was instrumental in starting the non-profit, 4-Hearts.

Rose went to Allegro in Tarpon Springs four years ago for a community service project for 4-Hearts and loved it there. She has been volunteering three days a week ever since. She plays cards with the residents, helps with arts & crafts and cooking. She acts as an escort, accompanying residents to off property events.

Thank you, Rose, for your community service.



IN OUR EAR

Is my meeting with Attorney Shurden covered by attorney-client privilege?

The attorney-client privilege applies to private communications between a **lawyer** and **client** for the purpose of obtaining legal advice. Privileged communications are protected from forced disclosure on the witness stand.

However, if someone other than a lawyer is present, the attorney-client privilege does not apply. For instance, you cannot take a friend or neighbor into the room with your attorney and maintain the attorney-client privilege.

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Legal Term of the Month

Stare Decisis – Latin for “to stand by things decided” to adhere to precedents of earlier cases as sources of law.

How to get off the Newsletter List

If you would like to have your name removed from our newsletter list, please email your request to jennifer@shurden.net or call our office at 727-443-2708.

Chattanooga Tennessee



Walt's mom and newsletter editor with Hayes



Langley indoor rock climbing



Cousin Camp 2017