



Estate Planning • Elder Law • Guardianships • Medicaid

### **Planning for Peace of Mind During the Coronavirus Outbreak**

These uncertain times highlight the need to have a concrete plan to manage your care if you become ill. Those who are caregivers for others need to have emergency and long-range plans established for their own care and their loved ones. A primary caregiver for a spouse with dementia, or a single parent with minor or disabled children, should have a concrete plan of action in case the caregiver must be quarantined or hospitalized. A few things you may consider:

- Will there be paid or family caregivers in the home to take over?
- Are there family members close by who can manage or supervise the care?
- Who will see to the proper administration of medication? Is there a person who knows the medication list and dosing who can help with this?
- Do Powers of Attorney (both health care and financial) establish a person-in-charge who is available, qualified to manage these decisions and equipped with instructions?
- What if the person-in-charge is far away and unable to travel?
- Is there a local case manager in place who understands the situation and can assist on an as-needed basis?
- Are the proper asset protection trusts established under the Will of the caregiver, so that in the event of the caregiver's death, Medicaid, VA benefits and other resources are available to the surviving spouse or children?
- Do the provisions in your Living Will regarding mechanical life support prohibit the use of a ventilator? Is this consistent with your present wishes?

### **Our Team is Available to Assist You**

In addition to preparing the legal documents which provide the framework for your plan, we have RN case managers and social workers on staff to help prepare and implement a comprehensive plan. This is the work we've always done, but social distancing, quarantine, shelter-in-place, and no visitor rules at hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities make it more challenging and urgent. While our office is closed to visitors and our staff is working remotely, we have implemented these measures to continue to be available to you:

- You may phone the office or email to schedule a phone conference or video conference (through Zoom or Facetime) with Caroline and/or one of the staff. Multiple party conferencing is available.
- Documents prepared for you are mailed or emailed for your review.
- Paperwork we request from you may be mailed, emailed, or left in the dropbox outside the office door.
- Document signings are handled by appointment. Clients stay in their car in our parking lot for the signing, and we provide the witnesses and notary, maintaining a safe social distance outside the vehicle.

While we'd rather see you in person, and give you a cup of coffee, a handshake or even a hug...for now, give us a call at 828.513.1600 and let us help you remotely. We continue our policy of offering a free consultation.

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