Elder Law Firms Providing the Ultimate Peace of Mind

Managing medical issues, finances, living arrangements and how to maintain quality of life requires thoughtful planning. Too often, seniors or their families only turn to an elder law firm at a time of crisis when incapacity, illness, housing or mobility concerns require immediate action.

Life care planning is a relationship between a law firm, family, and the aging individual that offers support, guidance, and direction throughout the aging process. Life care planning provides an anticipatory approach to the health, safety, well-being, and quality of life of seniors and their families, by providing not only legal advice with estate, disability, and asset protection planning, but also assistance with social and medical concerns that arise due to aging. Life care planning offers the ultimate peace of mind to aging individuals that they will maintain as much independence and dignity as possible, so they do not have to rely solely on their children or families in their golden years. A life care planning law firm will have a care coordinator on staff. The care coordinator assists seniors by performing in-home assessments and coordinating with families and discharge planners to arrange for the best quality care in the appropriate setting. The care coordinator will also provide information to families so the families can effectively advocate for their loved ones in the health care system.

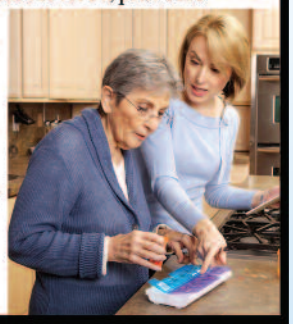
Life Care Planning

A Comprehensive Approach To Elder Law

A traditional elder law firm focuses on services related to estate planning, incapacity and entitlement qualifications.

As an elder law firm that practices Life Care Planning, Zacharia & Brown provides all of these traditional services, plus care coordination and advocacy support. The additional options made available through Life Care Planning can provide both the elderly and their caregivers with a better quality of life.

Call Zacharia & Brown today to see how Life Care Planning can bring new care options and peace of mind to your situation.



View The Life Care Video On Our Website Under Resources

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The goal of life care planning is to assist seniors and their families throughout all phases of the long-term care continuum, whether at home or in a facility.

Life care planning is particularly instrumental when seniors are still living at home. As we age, almost all will reach a point when they or their families must decide whether it is safe to continue living at home alone. This decision point can occur suddenly because of a medical event such as a stroke or fall. It can also occur because of the death of a spouse, or it can come on gradually because of the onset of dementia or physical limitations such as arthritis. In some circumstances, assistance such as ongoing medication management, or providing physical changes to a senior's home such as remodeling a bathroom or changing flooring can aid a senior in remaining safe and independent at home for as long as possible.

When an elderly relative begins to show signs that the senior needs help with activities of daily living, most families want to avoid institutionalized care, and allow the elderly relative to remain in the comfort of their own home. If this is the case, then the family really has two choices: hire an in-home aide or handle the caregiving themselves. Both of these options can be acceptable solutions and both can present pitfalls and challenges. Life care planning will help the senior's family assess and weigh the benefits of all options on the long-term care spectrum. The law firm will also assist the senior and their family with the planning necessary to pay for the care either now or in the future and help preserve the financial assets.

Life care planning will also provide stress relief to families of seniors who are hospitalized. Such a situation can leave a family shocked and feeling helpless. A care coordinator can assist a family with discharge planning when the senior is leaving the hospital. A care coordinator will be familiar with the family and the senior and with what meets their needs. Because of the relationship with the family, the care coordinator will work to find the appropriate intermediate care for the senior. A care coordinator will also work with the family after discharge to be certain that the chosen care is effective. A discharge often happens very quickly, and the process and care options are not always fully explained. A life care planning law firm will assist in the transition.

As opposed to traditional, transactional legal advisors who only concentrate on the estate, incapacity and entitlement qualifications (Medicaid and Veteran's Benefits), a life care planning law firm's integrated, elder focused approach also helps families plan for, pay for, coordinate and secure quality of care for life. Life care planning is a value added supplement to any traditional elder law practice.

About the Writer *Christine Brown Murphy is a partner with the elder law firm of Zacharia & Brown, PC. Zacharia & Brown is one of the oldest, most established elder law firms in Western Pennsylvania. Their practice includes life care planning for seniors, elder law, Medicaid & Veterans Benefits eligibility, nursing home asset protection, care review and advocacy, and estate planning and administration. Contact information: www.PittsburghElderLaw.com, 724.942.6200, 111 West McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317.*