

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Estate and
Long Term
Care Planning

Guardianship

Estate and
Trust
Administration

Probate
Litigation

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Heads Up When Hiring In-Home Help

“Home Care” is a term for services that may be brought into the homes of those needing assistance when recovering from an illness or accident, coping with chronic illness or facing a terminal illness. Skilled care services, paid for by Medicare or other private insurance, offers intermittent services by medical professionals to help with things like dressing changes, injections or physical therapy.

Sometimes we need help over a longer period of time, which may be considered “unskilled” or “private duty”,

such as help with bathing, walking, shopping, cooking or other activities of daily living. Making the decision to use home care is not always easy, but may be necessary.

So the question becomes, “who do I hire”? Should I use an agency, or hire someone privately? When calling an agency, be sure to ask if they are licensed or accredited, how they screen, train and supervise employees, and how they help to determine what services are needed. Hiring independently may be more difficult. Ask those you

know and trust for referrals and screen candidates carefully. Be prepared with your “job description” and expectations. As an employer, special tax responsibilities need to be addressed.

Joan Hopley, RN and Elder Care Coordinator with our team, is available to help our clients with the nuances of hiring in-home help.

For information or questions, you may contact Joan at **(630) 377-3241**, or e-mail: joan@strohscheinlawgroup.com.

New Program Helps Veterans!

Military veterans of any age, who are at risk of nursing home placement, may be eligible for a new program that enables them to stay in their own home! The Veteran's Independence Program, (VIP) effective July 1, 2010, allows veterans to direct and plan their own care and decide how to spend funds approved by Veterans Administration Options Counselors, available through Senior Services Associates, Inc. in Kane, Kendall

and McHenry Counties.

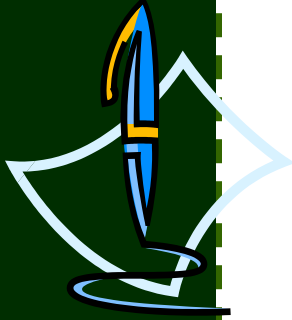
The veteran qualifies based on need and must be enrolled in the VA system. The Options Counselor then contacts the veteran. The primary component will be purchasing personal attendant services from someone the veteran hires.

This is a separate program from the VA special monthly pension with Aid and Attendance.

Strohschein Law Group assists veterans with planning for and accessing VA Benefits, paid directly to the veteran. A veteran could potentially qualify and use both programs.

For more information about the VIP Program, contact the Hines VA Medical Center at 708-786-5157.

For a FREE VA Aid and Attendance Benefits CD, call us at 630-377-3241.



Call 630-377-3241 to schedule a FREE one-hour consultation about your personal situation.

Golfer:

“That can’t be my ball, it’s too old!”

Caddy:

“It’s been a long time since we teed off!”

Strohschein
Law Group
Supports

TRIAD

Educating and
Reducing
Crimes Against
Seniors

A Note from the Principal

When Medicaid becomes part of a client’s long term care planning strategy, be aware that changes in Illinois law are around the corner!

On February 8, 2006, President Bush signed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 into law. Because Medicaid is a federal and state program, individual states were required to adopt changes

by July 1, 2007. Illinois has not enacted the new provisions, though it will probably do so late this year or early next year.

So how will this affect seniors and persons with disabilities who may need long term nursing home care?

First, the “Look Back Period” will change from 3 to 5 years, beginning on the date

of application. This means that gifts during this period will be closely examined to determine if they are a basis for Medicaid disqualification.

Second, the Penalty period will only begin when the applicant is in the nursing home and out of resources. The DRA will require families to plan ahead in order to receive benefits.

A Special Invitation

The team at Strohschein Law Group is joining the MOVE to end Alzheimer’s Disease, and we would love your support!

Everyday we see the devastating impact on families and individuals struggling with this disease, now ranked as the number 7 cause of death in the United States. Join us for the Naperville Memory Walk 2010, as a sponsor, a walker (3.2 miles), or just to cheer us on!

Sunday, September 26, 2010
Naperville Riverwalk - Grand Pavillion

For details, call Sue Bradberry at 630-377-3241 or www.invite@strohscheinlawgroup.com



Recipe Corner

Pretzel Summer Salad

2 Sticks Melted Butter
1 C. Sugar
2C. Crushed Pretzels

2 (8 oz.) Softened Cream Cheese
1 C. Sugar
1 (16 oz.) Cool Whip
1 (20 oz.) Frozen Strawberries or Blueberries

We all love a good recipe, especially this Pretzel Summer Salad that our paralegal, Kari Collins (see page 3), brought to a recent potluck lunch. We’d love to hear from you as well! Send us your favorite recipes (and some samples for tasting—wink, wink) and we’ll include it in a future issue of the Strohschein Sun!

Mix the first three ingredients together, then press on a cookie sheet. Bake until brown and bubbly (7 minutes at 400°). Cool, then break pretzel mixture into pieces.

Beat cream cheese until smooth and creamy. Add sugar and mix. Lightly fold in Cool Whip. Add frozen fruit. Chill. Add pretzel pieces just before serving.

Linda's List of Who's Who at the Firm



Kari Collins
Paralegal

Kari L. Collins is a Paralegal who focuses primarily on Public Benefits and Guardianship matters for clients. Kari came to us right out of school as a result of knowing her mom who works at a senior residence in the Tri-City area. Kari has an extraordinary attention to detail which comes in really handy when a four inch stack of documents arrives for the latest benefit application or an existing guardianship file arrives to sort

through and understand what has happened since it started. Kari lives locally with her husband and two cats. They have been working diligently to rehab their house and have been doing a great job making it into a comfortable home. Kari can be reached via email at Kari@StrohscheinLawGroup.com.

To learn about the rest of our team, visit our web site: www.StrohscheinLawGroup.com.

“Turn your
face to the
sun
and shadows
fall behind
you!”

Maori Proverb

Goal: Visit Every Facility in the County!

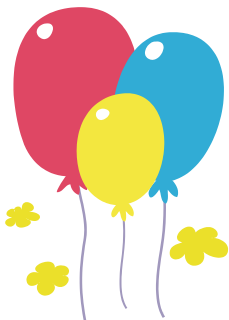
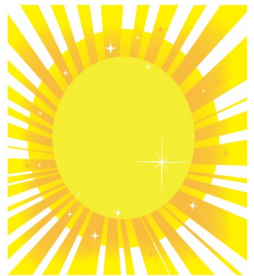
“So when do attorneys visit nursing homes?” - Nursing Home Administrator

During a recent visit to an area nursing home, the administrator was surprised to actually meet with an attorney! Linda schedules visits to find out expectations of nursing homes regarding Medicaid processes and communication preferences. With the Medicaid rules changing in the near future, Strohschein Law Group not only advocates for clients, but desires to support providers through proactive communication and education.

Many of our clients ask our opinion about which nursing homes and assisted living communities would be a good fit for a loved one. In an effort to have this information ready when needed, we are stepping up on our efforts to visit every facility within a 30 mile radius from the office. So far, these are the ones we have visited, and many more are on the list for the next few months:

Alden Gardens Assisted Living - Aurora, Alden Gardens of Bloomingdale Supportive Living, Arden Courts of Geneva, Heritage Woods of South Elgin, Heritage Woods of Huntley, Marionjoy Rehabilitation Hospital - Wheaton, Provena Pineview Care Center - St. Charles, South Elgin Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Tower Hill Healthcare Center - South Elgin and West Suburban Nursing and Rehab Center - Bloomingdale.

If you have a question about a facility you are considering, let us know. When appropriate, we'll make a referral to a placement service for more in-depth information. We also work regularly with our trusted partners in the placement industry, such as The Senior Site, A Place for Mom and Silver Connections - to locate the perfect combination of services needed and amenities desired.



Happy Anniversary to You!

Congratulations on your anniversary with Strohschein Law Group!

Rachel Rupp, Attorney - 3 years
Darrin McDonald, Paralegal - 1 year
Joan Hopley, RN, ECC - 1 year

A Sweet Tip

When you have a loved one in a nursing home, leave a candy jar in the room so that nursing home staff will visit more often! Also, if your loved one is not able to communicate, leave a favorite picture of your loved one and a short description of their interests. This will help the staff connect and provide better care!



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Protecting What Matters.

www.StrohscheinLawGroup.com

2010 Educational Series - Save the Date

**Advanced Directives -
Decisions That Matter!**

Learn what essential legal documents you need to give direction to others when you no longer are able to do so, and WHY you need them!

Sept. 21, 2010 12PM - 1PM

**How to Pay for Needed
Care - Public and Private
Benefit Options**

Unexpected health issues may create financial concerns for the long term. Learn about resource options which may ease the pain!

Oct. 5, 2010 12PM - 1PM

**Worried About Going
Broke in a Nursing Home?**

Come and hear about planning options you have NOW and strategies that work to optimize your assets and your choices down the road.

Nov. 11, 2010 12 - 1PM.

All educational programs are held at our office:

2455 Dean Street, Suite G, St. Charles - 60175

Because lunch is provided, we request an **R.S.V.P.** prior to the scheduled event. Just give us a call at **(630) 377-3241**, or send us an e-mail:

www.invite@StrohscheinLawGroup.com



