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*Elder Law Attorney*

If you have clients who need assistance with finding the right place for their ill family member to live and determining how to pay for it, **we can assist them with becoming eligible for Medicaid.**

If you have clients who are unable to care for themselves and make their own decisions, **we can assist their loved ones with becoming their guardian.**

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## WORDS TO THE WISE

November 2007

### Medicare Part D Annual Enrollment

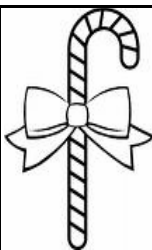
November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> is the annual enrollment period for Medicare Part D prescription coverage. While there are some exceptions, those who fail to enroll during this time period will be unable to enroll later in a Part D plan for prescription coverage in 2008. Remember, there is a late enrollment penalty of 1% of the national average monthly premium for each month that a person is eligible to enroll in Medicare Part D and fails to do so. However, those with prescription coverage that is as good or better than Medicare's standard prescription coverage (creditable coverage) will not be penalized. If you have creditable coverage, keep your letter or notice regarding this in a safe place.

Source: Medicare & You 2008

### PET Scan, a Tool for Proper Diagnosis

Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) is a common cause of early onset dementia and is often misdiagnosed as Alzheimer's Disease. However, a recent study funded by the National Institute on Aging suggests that a FDG-PET scan can help ensure a proper diagnosis. This type of scan measures sugar uptake in the brain and Medicare has now agreed to pay for the scan to evaluate dementia. If a patient is diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease instead of FTD, they may be prescribed costly drugs with side effects for the wrong disease.

Source: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2007-11/uouh-psd110107.php#](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2007-11/uouh-psd110107.php#)



This year, we are asking our friends and clients to join us in adopting a senior from our "Giving Tree." Area nursing homes have provided us with the needs of their most isolated seniors and we have placed these needs on cards on our "Giving Tree." Please call or stop by to pick a senior to adopt. Your gifts must be returned to our office by December 14 for distribution prior to the holidays. Your participation will be appreciated.