

JULIE OSTERHOUT

*Certified Elder Law Attorney
Of Counsel*

LANCE MCKINNEY

Certified Elder Law Attorney

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*Certified Elder Law Attorney
Certified Circuit Civil Mediator*

BRITTON G. SWANK

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

March 2008

Disadvantages of Medicare Advantage

According to a recent article in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, more and more seniors are learning the hard way that unlike traditional Medicare, many doctors do not accept Medicare Advantage plans. These plans combine Medicare Part A, Part B, and sometimes Part D prescription coverage and are managed by private insurance companies. The article indicates that doctors who refuse to accept Medicare Advantage Plans often cite lower payments, delays in payments, and additional paperwork as the reasons for refusing the plans.

Source:

www.heraldtribune.com/article/20080224/BUSINESS/802240531/0/FRONTPAGE

National Next-of- Kin Registry

During a recent web visit to www.myflorida.com, we noticed a link to the Next-of-Kin Registry (NOKR). NOKR is a volunteer-driven organization which stores personal emergency contacts worldwide, and makes it available securely to registered emergency agencies during a crisis. The U.S. Department of Defense, the State of Florida, U.S. Marine Corps., and American Red Cross are among those using or linking to NOKR. The NOKR system was used during the 2004 Asian Tsunami, the 2005 London Bombing, and the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting and during many other times of crisis. You can register for free at NOKR's website listed below. The Next of Kin Registry also has a Safe Kids program.

Sources: <http://www.myflorida.com/>
<http://nokr.org/history.htm>

Conference on Aging

Please join us at the 7th Annual Conference on Aging on Friday, April 18, 2008, at the Broadway Palm on Colonial Blvd. in Fort Myers. Sessions address health care, mental health, case management and current issues, and are geared toward aging professionals as well as the general public. The conference begins at 8:30 am and lasts until 4 pm. Continuing education credits are available for professionals. The event is sponsored by our firm, and hosted by Hope Hospice and Community Services. For more information, please call 433-8069.