

JULIE OSTERHOUT

Of Counsel

LANCE McKINNEY

Certified Elder Law Attorney

BETH PRATHER

*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

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Bankruptcy, Seniors High Risk

The first report of the 2007 Consumer Bankruptcy Project (CBP) shows that between 1991 and 2007, the number of bankruptcy debtors age 55 or older almost tripled. This, while the rate of younger Americans filing for bankruptcy decreased. Later reports by the CBP will focus on the factors causing the sharp increase in bankruptcy filings among older Americans. For now, the data collected may be a signal of things to come. Since research suggests a link between financial problems and health, the report states that the increased rate of bankruptcy filings among older Americans may be a precursor to increased health problems among the same group.

Source: www.aarp.org/research/credit-debt/debt/2008_11_debt.html

Retirement Friendly States

A recent article on Kiplinger.com discussed tax-friendly places to retire. As Florida residents know, our state is one of a handful that has no state income tax. But the article's author, Mary Beth Franklin, pointed out that high sales tax coupled with high property taxes can offset the advantages of living in a state with no state income tax. If you are thinking about retiring in another state, you might try www.taxesites.com. From there, you can download state income-tax forms so you can determine what you would actually pay in taxes if you move. The five states determined to be the toughest on retirees? California, Connecticut, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Vermont made the list because they fully tax most pensions and other retirement income. They also have fairly high top tax brackets.

Source: www.kiplinger.com/magazine/archives/2008/08/tax-impact-on-retirees.html

Join us for ~~Stressed Out!~~ Halloween!

Dr. David G. Kelley, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, will be speaking on, "Caregiver Stress and How to Avoid Burnout" at two locations on Friday, October 31, 2008. The event, sponsored by Osterhout, McKinney & Prather, is free but seating is limited. To reserve your seat call 239-791-0905.

Fort Myers: 9:30 am-10:30 am at the Boy Scouts of America Southwest Florida Council building located at 1801 Boy Scout Drive in Ft. Myers

Cape Coral: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm at Hope Hospice located at 2430 Diplomat Parkway East in Cape Coral

The event is free. To reserve a seat call: 239-791-0905.