

**JULIE OSTERHOUT**

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*Certified Elder Law Attorney*

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*Certified Elder Law Attorney*

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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

September 2009

### Man Leaves Elderly Mom On Floor For Two Days

Recently, a forty-five-year-old New York man made headlines around the country by leaving his elderly mother on the floor for two days, knowing she had fallen in their home and was unable to get up. The son, a nursing home worker, was charged with reckless endangerment. In Florida, Title 46 (Crimes), Chapter 825 Florida Statutes, covers criminal prosecution of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly and disabled adults. By statute, a caregiver who willfully or by culpable negligence neglects an elderly person or disabled adult and in doing so causes great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement to the elderly person or disabled adult commits a second degree felony.

Sources: § 825, Fla. Stat. (2009)  
[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2009/08/14/2009-08-14\\_police\\_ny\\_man\\_left\\_ailing\\_mom\\_on\\_floor\\_for\\_2\\_days.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2009/08/14/2009-08-14_police_ny_man_left_ailing_mom_on_floor_for_2_days.html)

### Need Help? Dial 211

With the holiday season approaching and many in our community struggling, we thought it was a good time to remind you about United Way 211. This program provides free information and referrals to social service agencies within Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties. 211 is for non-emergency help only, but is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information visit [WWW.unitedwaylee.org/211.html](http://WWW.unitedwaylee.org/211.html).

### Don't Fall Victim...Step Into This Special Seminar & Avoid Spills Later

Falls are not a natural part of aging and you can learn how to help prevent them. Osterhout, McKinney & Prather, P.A. and Arden Courts are sponsoring a **Fall Prevention Seminar on Friday, October 9, 2009**. Dr. Jane Mahoney is an Associate Professor of Geriatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and will be our speaker. The **seminar is free, but space is limited**. To reserve a seat, please call (239) 791-0905. Speaking times and locations are:

- 9:30-11:00 am, Community Room of Gulf Coast Hospital in Fort Myers.
- 2:00-3:30 pm, Hope Hospice in Cape Coral