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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

June 2009

### Higher Filing Fees Are Here

Though not nearly as harsh as originally proposed, higher probate and guardianship filing fees became effective on the first of this month. The summary administration filing fee for an estate greater than \$1,000 is now \$345, while the cost to file a formal administration with the court has risen to \$400. This amounts to a \$115 increase for each type of probate case. The cost to file a plenary guardianship (guardianship of the property and person) is now \$631, amounting to an increase of \$230.

Source: [www.leeclerk.org/Dept\\_Forms/Official\\_Records/Feebook.pdf](http://www.leeclerk.org/Dept_Forms/Official_Records/Feebook.pdf)

### Funeral Director's License Suspended

Florida CFO Alex Sink has suspended the license of Haines City funeral director, Claude Edward Holmes Jr., for inappropriately disposing of remains. Holmes buried the internal organs of a Polk County man who had drowned, in a shallow grave in a different cemetery from where the body was buried. Holmes was arrested on charges related to the incident.

Only funeral directors licensed in Florida can provide funeral services within this state. For consumer tips regarding funeral arrangements, cremation and cemeteries, call Florida's Funeral and Cemetery Hotline at 1-800-323-2627 or visit the link below.

Link: [www.myfloridacfo.com/FuneralCemetery/fc\\_consumerfaq.htm#funeral](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/FuneralCemetery/fc_consumerfaq.htm#funeral)  
Source: [www.myfloridacfo.com/PressOffice/ViewMediaRelease.asp?ID=3214](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/PressOffice/ViewMediaRelease.asp?ID=3214)

### Drugs Commonly Prescribed for Elderly Have Negative Side Effects

An analysis of almost thirty studies reveals that *medications known as anticholinergics often cause confusion, dementia and other cognitive problems in the patients taking them. Anticholinergics are commonly prescribed for elderly patients and include such medications as Benadryl (an antihistamine), Ditropan (used to treat urinary incontinence) and Paxil (an antidepressant). One of the authors of the research review is Dr. Malaz Boustani of the Regenstrief Institute in Indianapolis. He points out that patients who develop delirium in the hospital face longer stays, a greater likelihood of being transferred to a nursing home for care rather than being sent home, and an increased risk of dying.*

Source: [www.reutershealth.com/en/index.html](http://www.reutershealth.com/en/index.html)

**Help with Digital Access**

Do you have an older TV? Do you have cable but can't afford to keep it? Call the Elder Helpline at 1-800-963-5337 for assistance with getting access to digital TV.