

JULIE OSTERHOUT

*Emeritus Specialist in Elder Law
Of Counsel*

LANCE MCKINNEY

Certified Elder Law Attorney

BETH PRATHER

Certified Elder Law Attorney

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

May 2009

Are You a Long Distance Caregiver?

Lee Memory Care has a very helpful website that includes tips for long distance caregivers. If you have concerns about a loved one but are not able to visit regularly, or do not live nearby, they emphasize the importance of using your time wisely when you do visit. Investigate the following:

- Is there food in the refrigerator? Has it spoiled?
- Is your loved one bathing?
- Do the conditions at your loved one's home create safety concerns?
- Are bills being paid?
- Is your loved one able to drive safely?
- How do your loved one's neighbors and friends feel about how your loved one is doing?

Another issue that frequently arises in our practice involves family pets. If your loved one has an animal in the home, make sure that it is being well cared for. If not, this gives you a chance to take corrective action and also gives you a clue that your loved one may need help. Another issue to address is whether your loved one's family pet creates a dangerous fall risk.

Source: www.leememorial.org/oas/memory/memorycare.asp

Use of Restraints in Canadian Nursing Homes High

An article appearing in last month's Calgary Herald reported that Canadian nursing homes are the world leaders in confining their elderly residents with physical restraints. The results of a study involving data collected between 2003 and 2005, found that nearly one third of all Canadian nursing homes and chronic-care hospitals used belts and other restraints for their residents. This is more than three times the rate such restraints are used in the United States.

Source:
www.calgaryherald.com/Life/Canada+highest+user+restraints+elderly/1409653/story.html

Upcoming Events

Attorney Beth Prather will be speaking about the legal issues facing caregivers at Arden Court on Thursday, May 28, 2009. The presentation begins at 9:00 am and is a free caregiver educational event. For more information about this seminar, please call Adele Gomez at 239-334-5857.