

Osterhout, McKinney & Prather, P.A. ELDER LAW ATTORNEYS

Celebrating 20 Years in 2010!

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

June 2010

Doctors Declining To Accept Medicare

Many physicians believe Medicare payments are already too low and the threat of future cuts to Medicare payment rates may make it even harder for seniors to find a doctor. A recent *USA Today* article reports that the number of physicians who either refuse to accept Medicare or limit the number of Medicare patients is on the rise. The American Academy of Family Physicians reported that 13% of respondents did not participate in Medicare last year, representing a 5% jump from 2008. The American Medical Association reported 17% of more than 9,000 doctors surveyed restrict the number of Medicare patients in their practice.

Source: USA Today (June 21, 2010)
www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-06-20-medicare_N.htm

LEAPP Into Action

June 15th was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and sadly, the Lee County area has seen its share of elder abuse cases. Erin Gillespie, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), indicated in a recent *news-press.com* article that DCF investigates nearly 200 allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable and elderly adults on a monthly basis in Southwest Florida. Many more cases are likely unreported. However, Lee Elder Abuse Prevention Partnership (LEAPP), a new coalition of human service providers and agencies, is working to promote awareness of these issues in our community. Members collaborate to provide services, advocacy and support for older adults. For more information about LEAPP, call United Way 211 or 239-433-3900.

Source: news-press.com (June 14, 2010)
www.news-press.com/article/20100614/NEWS0110/6140327/LEAPP-looks-to-raise-awareness-of-elder-abuse-with-Fort-Myers-event

DO YOU NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION?

The attorneys of Osterhout, McKinney & Prather, P.A. are available for seminars, talks and training on elder law topics including: Medicaid, Veteran's Benefits, Probate, End of Life Decision Making, Estate Planning and Long Term Care Planning. Please contact Persida at 239-278-4109.