



Jim Koewler <jameskoewler@gmail.com>

Seniors and Special Needs News - December 19, 2014

1 message

The Koewler Law Firm <Newsletter@protectingseniorsnews.com>
 Reply-To: The Koewler Law Firm <Newsletter@protectingseniorsnews.com>
 To: Jim <protectingseniorsnewsarchive@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 8:59 PM

With help, seniors and people with special needs can keep some of their assets in the family rather than lose their entire life savings to the costs of long term care. They can use these protected assets to enhance their quality of life beyond what long term care alone will provide.

Email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



Seniors and Special Needs News

Comparing Strategies to Pre-Plan for Long Term Care Costs

Today's newsletter continues the series about possible ways to plan ahead to protect against long term care costs.

My December 12, 2014 newsletter discussed doing nothing ahead of time to protect your assets against the possibility of long term care costs in the future.

Previously, my newsletter discussed giving money away as a method to plan ahead for protection against long term care costs. My newsletter of September 19, 2014, the first installment of the discussion on gifting, described how the Medicaid "Aged, Blind and Disabled" program and the Department of Veterans Affairs "Pension" (aka VA "Aid and Attendance") program look at assets given away. My newsletter of September 26, 2014 discussed transferring assets to a trust for protection against long term care costs. My newsletter of October 3, 2014 discussed transferring assets to a Limited Liability Company for protection against long term care costs. My newsletter of October 10, 2014 discussed transferring assets to your children (or other family members) for protection against long term care costs. My newsletter of October 17, 2014 discussed transferring assets to your a charity

for protection against long term care costs. My newsletter of October 24, 2014 discussed transferring assets to your spouse as a way to protect against long term care costs. My newsletter of November 28, 2014 compared the various gifting strategies.

Before that, my newsletters discussed long term care insurance as an approach to planning ahead for long term care costs. In the long term care insurance portion of this discussion, my May 23, 2014 newsletter discussed whether to buy long term care insurance at all; my May 30, 2014 newsletter discussed looking for a stable, proven insurer; my June 6, 2014 newsletter described how to identify a proven, stable Long Term Care insurance company; my June 13, 2014 newsletter discussed the importance of protection against inflation; my June 20, 2014 newsletter suggested insuring for a four year or a five year stay in a nursing home; and my June 27, 2014 newsletter suggested a \$200 or \$250 daily rate to choose when purchasing long term care insurance. My newsletter of July 11, 2014 advised to look carefully at the list of Activities of Daily Living that can trigger coverage from the long term care insurance policy. My newsletter of July 18, 2014 described the differences between a "period of time" kind of coverage and a "pile of money" kind of coverage. My newsletter of July 25, 2014 advised to make sure that the long term care insurance includes coverage for cognitive impairment. My newsletter of August 1, 2014 discussed the differences between tax-qualified and non-tax-qualified long term care insurance policies. My newsletter of August 8, 2014 discussed the value of long term care insurance policies that qualify for the Partnership program. My newsletter of August 15, 2014 described "hybrid policies" that provide both long term care insurance and life insurance. My newsletter of August 22, 2014 described how a long term care insurance policy with a return of premium rider can be used to construct a "hybrid" life insurance/long term care insurance policy. My newsletter of August 29, 2014 described how to use a partnership policy to protect just enough of your life savings while holding down the cost of the insurance. My newsletter of September 5, 2014 described how to coordinate long term care insurance with potential veterans benefits. My newsletter of September 12, 2014 discussed how an elder law attorney can help maximize the value of long term care insurance.

The introductory newsletter in the series on planning ahead for long term care costs was published on May 16, 2014.

Today's newsletter **compares the possible strategies for planning ahead for long term care costs** previously discussed in this series. We will use the criteria for comparison set out in my newsletter of May 16, 2014. (It's hard

to believe that this discussion goes all the way back to May.) Those criteria are:

- Your level of worry about long term care costs,
- Cost to implement the strategy,
- Risk of abnormal loss of assets,
- Convenience to implement,
- Control over your money, and
- Likelihood of success.

Long Term Care Insurance

- Great at relieving worry about long term care costs;
- Relatively expensive to implement compared to the other pre-planning strategies (but still inexpensive compared to long term care costs);
- No risk of abnormal loss of your assets (just your normal investment risks);
- Convenient to implement (just buy a good policy);
- You keep control over your money;
- High likelihood of success in protecting your assets if you get an elder law attorney to help you at the time you need care.
(If you don't protect your assets when you first make a claim against the policy, you are putting those assets at risk, and you are failing to get full value from the policy.)

Giving assets away

- Good, but not great, at relieving worry about long term care costs (You might worry whether you've given away too little or too much);
- Inexpensive to implement;
- High risk of abnormal loss of assets (you've put your money at the mercy of someone else);
- Convenient to implement -just give stuff away (a gift tax return may be necessary);
- You completely sacrifice control over your money;
- Medium likelihood of success in protecting your assets from long term care costs
(You have to hope that the look-back period, currently 5 years for Medicaid, passes before you need long term care.)

Do Nothing

- Very little or no relief from worry about long term care costs (except for people who have the "I'll deal with it when it happens" attitude);
- No cost to implement;
- No abnormal risk of loss of assets (just the normal risk of your

investment choices);

- Convenient to implement (What could be more convenient than doing nothing?);
- You maintain control over your money;
- BUT there is little chance of protecting the bulk of your assets from long term care costs.

(Frequently, an elder law attorney can help save something, even at the time you need long term care, but rarely can the bulk of your assets be saved.)

There is no clear winner that fits everyone. No two people have the same risk tolerance, and, likewise, no two people have the same level of desire to keep control of their assets. The differences among these strategies are big enough that you might like one approach while your neighbor prefers a different approach. It could even be your spouse that has an opinion different from yours. (That would be a tricky plan to figure out.) Pre-planning for long term care costs is not easy stuff.

Above all else, please remember that the strategies discussed in this series are for long term care PRE-PLANNING (i.e., when you are worried about, but don't yet need, long term care.) The analysis in this series is not appropriate for someone who needs care now or will probably need care within 5 years.

Note: Don't count on newsletters the next two weeks because of Christmas and New Years. I might publish during those times but probably not.

Suggest a Newsletter Topic

I try to write something new (and useful) in my newsletter every week. So, I know that I will sometimes have writer's block. I'd like your help, please.

If you have a topic for my newsletter that you'd kindly suggest, I promise to consider it. (I don't promise to pursue it. I just promise to consider it.) I try to write about issues concerning seniors, health care, long term care, special needs, Veterans Pension (aka Aid and Attendance) benefits, and Veterans Compensation benefits. Please keep your suggestions within or near to those topics.

Please submit your suggestion [here](#). If I use your topic suggestion, I'll put the content in both my blog and newsletter.

Thank you for your help.

Social Media Posts from the past week

12-18-2014 #Parents of #SpecialNeeds children feel that #Schools are failing them <http://ow.ly/FSu0M>

12-17-2014 #FamilyCaregivers often use their own #Money to support #AgingParents <http://ow.ly/F5x96>

12-16-2014 Reasons why people buy #LongTermCareInsurance <http://ow.ly/FS3VW>
<http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/2389311>

12-15-2014 #Violence by #NursingHome residents <http://ow.ly/FSwM8>
<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/12/13/residents-aggression-is-studied.html>

12-14-2014 #Exercise for #Seniors - Upper body workout in a chair for #AgingParents <http://ow.ly/F5wcM>

12-13-2014 Tips for #Seniors to age gracefully <http://ow.ly/F5uZc>

12-12-2014 It might be okay to #DoNothing to #PlanAhead for #LongTermCare Costs <http://wp.me/p47F09-83>

Older social media posts can be found in the [social media post archive](#) on the firm's website, ProtectingSeniors.com.

The Koewler Law Firm News

6-16-2015 Jim Koewler will speak on planning ahead to protect your life savings against long term care costs at a meeting of the University Hospitals Bedford Medical Center SeniorNet at the Atrium of Anna Maria in Aurora, Ohio.

Older items of firm news can be found in the [news archive](#) on the firm's website, ProtectingSeniors.com.

Jim's available presentations

- Navigating Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, nurses, and Certified Case Managers)
- Preventing Senior Fraud (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, nurses and Certified Case Managers)
- My Care Ohio and Medicare/Medicaid “Dual Eligibles” (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, nurses, and seeking approval for Certified Case Managers)
- Government Benefits that can help Pay for Long Term Care (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, nurses, and seeking approval for Certified Case Managers)
- Legal Issues for People with Dementia (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Protect your Life Savings from the Costs of Long Term Care (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Veterans Benefits for Long Term Care (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Advance Directives – Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, etc. (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Buying Long Term Care Insurance Wisely (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Planning Ahead to Protect against Long Term Care Costs (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Protecting your Money when you need Long Term Care and Essential Estate Planning Considerations (with free living wills for the audience)
- Myths about Long Term Care
- How to help your Parents Manage their Affairs

Upcoming meetings

1-6-2015 Aging Services Network of Euclid, Euclid Hospital's Waltz Auditorium, Euclid, Ohio 8:30 a.m.

1-7-2015 Stark Senior Services Network, Canton Baptist Temple, Canton, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

1-7-2015 Medina County Senior Services Network's Client Services Committee, Sully's, Medina, Ohio, 3:00 p.m.

1-8-2015 Lorain County Senior Services Network, Avon Oaks, Avon, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

1-9-2015 Eldercare Professionals of Ohio, Berea Lake Towers, Berea, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

1-14-2015 Medina County Senior Services Network, Pearlview Care Center, Brunswick, Ohio, 8:00 a.m.

1-14-2015 Summit Senior Sales, Administrators and Marketers Association, Location TBA, 2:30 p.m.

1-14-2015 Richfield Chamber of Commerce annual dinner, The Taverne of

Richfield, Richfield, Ohio, 6:00 p.m.
1-19-2015 Medina County Senior Services Network's Education Committee,
Tres Potrillos, Medina, Ohio, 11:30 a.m.

Newsletter Archive

Past issues of this newsletter can be found in the [newsletter archive](#) on the firm's blog site, [ProtectingSeniors.com](#).

Contact Jim Koewler

If you'd like to contact Jim, this newsletter has a dedicated [contact page](#) on the firm's blog site, [ProtectingSeniorsNews.com](#).

© 2014 The Koewler Law Firm. All rights reserved.

[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2014 The Koewler Law Firm, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you subscribed through our website or asked to be on our mailing list.

Our mailing address is:
The Koewler Law Firm
P.O. Box 443
Richfield, OH 44286

[Add us to your address book](#)



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)