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Seniors and Special Needs News - January 30, 2015

1 message

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Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 9:05 AM

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.

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Seniors and Special Needs News

My Family's experience with Nursing Homes

Grandma Cook in hindsight

As I wrote in last week's newsletter (January 23, 2015), we struggled with the decision on where my Grandma should live after her broken hip. Our positive experiences with Grandma Schneider (newsletter of January 10, 2014) and Aunt Gert (newsletter of January 16, 2015,) caused us not to fear nursing homes. Still, each person has an individual personality, individual desires, and individual expectations. After Grandma had lived alone for 34 years after Grandpa died, we worried whether she would like the nursing home (even though she had made the decision herself to stay there rather than return to her house.)

Grandma died on Halloween, at 100 years old, after 8 years in the nursing home. I'm not sure her nursing home stay could have been much better. She seemed happier during those 8 years than I ever remember her being before. (It's not like I haven't known Grandma my whole life.) She smiled more during that time than ever before. Her voice was cheerier than ever before. It was a great experience.

When living alone, Grandma had always been active. She got out of the

house and had breakfast with friends almost every morning. She stayed out for card games or activities at the senior center and then had lunch at the center. After lunch she had more things to do before returning home for dinner. (Years ago, we bought her an answering machine so we could have some chance of letting her know we were trying to reach her.) Because of her busy day out of the house, we weren't sure how she would adapt to spending most of her time in one building.

We shouldn't have worried. It was the activities that interested Grandma and not the geography. The daily activities at the nursing home kept her busy. And, I believe she really liked not having to drive to get to her activities.

They had bingo every day and twice on Saturdays. (Grandma loved bingo – always did.) They had music every day. (I'm not sure anyone in the building could carry a tune, but they sure had fun.) She attended religious services. (Now, Grandma was never religious. At the nursing home, a religious service – Jewish, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic, whatever – was just something for Grandma to participate in.) There were lots of group outings, and Grandma went on almost all of them. She stayed behind only when there wasn't room for her because it's someone else's turn to go. (Admittedly, Grandma did slow down somewhat as she aged.)

Grandma was also happy that someone else took care of meals. She didn't have to decide what to cook and didn't have to do the cooking.

Grandma's experience in her nursing home was about as good as it could have been. We were lucky. I'm sure, though, that the biggest reason it was successful is because Grandma made it successful. She didn't fret about what she didn't have anymore. She dove in to enjoy what she had. Grandma was great!

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

01-29-2015 Website helps find #Vacation spots for families with #SpecialNeeds children <http://ow.ly/Gfo2i>

01-28-2015 #AgingParent or #LovedOne is a #Spendthrift <http://ow.ly/HwLZu>

01-27-2015 How people have decided whether to buy #LongTermCareInsurance <http://ow.ly/Gfx9I>

01-26-2015 Where will your #AgingParent live <http://ow.ly/HwXOm>

01-25-2015 The national question of how to pay for #LongTermCare <http://ow.ly/HwVtz>

01-24-2015 Emotional ties to "stuff" that an #AgingParent has accumulated (personal experiences) <http://ow.ly/HwLDp>

01-23-2015 My Family's Experience with #NursingHomes – Grandma Cook <http://wp.me/p47F09-98>

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

1-29-2015 Jim Koewler presented the continuing education program Navigating Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act at Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights, Ohio. Continuing education credit was available for Certified Case Managers, social workers, counselors, and nurses.

2-5-2015 Jim Koewler will present the continuing education program Navigating Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act at St. John Westshore Hospital in Westlake, Ohio. Continuing education credit is available for Certified Case Managers, social workers, counselors, and nurses.

2-12-2015 Jim Koewler will speak on elder law and VA disability to the International Referral Network's Elyria chapter at the Elks Club in Elyria, Ohio.

2-18-2015 Jim Koewler will speak on elder law and long term care costs to the International Referral Network's Akron West chapter at the Akron Family Restaurant in Akron, Ohio.

3-17-2015 Jim Koewler will speak on Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, and other advance directives to a class of health care administration students at Bryant & Stratton College in Akron, Ohio.

4-8-2015 Jim Koewler will present a 3-hour continuing education program on Powers of Attorney, Health Care Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, and other advance directives, and on What Seniors know about Long Term Care Costs that are Wrong at a seminar for Direction Home, the Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging at the Akron General Wellness Center in Uniontown, Ohio. Continuing education credit is available for social workers, counselors, and nurses.

5-26-2015 Jim Koewler will discuss the legal issues that seniors face, especially focusing on long term care, at HCR ManorCare in Parma, Ohio.

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

- 2-3-2015 Aging Services Network of Euclid, Euclid Hospital's Waltz Auditorium, Euclid, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.
- 2-4-2015 Stark Senior Services Network, Canton Baptist Temple, Canton, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.
- 2-4-2015 Richfield Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Days Inn and Suites, Richfield, Ohio, 11:45 a.m.
- 2-4-2015 Medina County Senior Services Network's Client Services Committee, Sully's, Medina, Ohio, 3:00 p.m.
- 2-11-2015 Medina County Senior Services Network, Meadowview Care Center, Seville, Ohio, 8:00 a.m.
- 2-11-2015 Summit Senior Sales, Administrators and Marketers Association, Sutcliffe II Apartments, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 2:30 p.m.
- 2-12-2015 Lorain County Senior Services Network, Villa Camillus, Columbia Station, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.
- 2-13-2015 Eldercare Professionals of Ohio, Altenheim & Shurmer Place, Strongsville, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.
- 2-16-2015 Medina County Senior Services Network's Education Committee, Tres Potrillos, Medina, Ohio, 11:30 a.m.
- 2-17-2015 UH Bedford Medical Center Senior Network, Grande Village, Twinsburg, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

- 2-18-2015 Geauga Professional Association Specializing in Seniors ("PASS"), UH Geauga Medical Center, Chardon, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.
- 2-24-2015 Summit County Senior Services Network, Anthony Kucko Kertesz Funeral Home, Akron, Ohio, 8:00 a.m.
- 2-24-2015 Professional Networking Group, Solon Senior Center, Solon, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.
- 2-24-2015 Wayne Holmes Senior Service Coalition, Wayne County Care Center, Wooster, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.
- 2-26-2015 Parma Hospital Senior Resource Network, Southern Hills Skilled Nursing & Rehab Center, Middleburg Heights, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.
- 2-26-2015 Portage Senior Services Network, Coleman Adult Day Services, Ravenna, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.
- 2-26-2015 The Association of Specialists in Aging, Mentor Senior Center, Mentor, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.
- 2-27-2015 Eldercare Professionals of Ohio, Chippewa Place, Brecksville, Ohio, 9:00 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.

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