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Seniors and Special Needs News - February 18, 2016

1 message

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Fri, Feb 19, 2016 at 9:01 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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The Koewler Law Firm
 JAMES L. KOEWLER, JR.



Seniors and Special Needs News

I want to Stay in my Home Home Modifications

This week's newsletter continues the discussion of an aging adult who wants to stay in his or her home. The introductory installment (on [February 11, 2016](#)) discussed the emotional turmoil that can face the adult children in deciding whether to accede to the aging parent's wishes to stay home.

Today's installment will discuss home modifications that may make it easier for an aging adult to stay home.

If an aging adult has physical ailments but does not have significant cognitive issues, certain modifications to the home may make a big difference in ease of daily activities and quality of life. This isn't a remodeling to give the home updated decor. These home modifications aim to make the resident's daily routine (in elder law and long term care management, we refer to "activities of daily living) easier.

A primary concern is stairs. As an adult ages, walking up stairs or down stairs is very risky. To allow an older person to age in place, the tasks that the person must perform must be available on the main floor. This includes a bedroom, full bathroom, kitchen, living room or family room, and laundry.

Another big concern is the bathroom. The wet slippery surfaces make footing unsure. Stepping over the side of a bathtub or over the raised edge of a shower can cause someone who is unsteady on his or her feet to lose

balance and possibly fall. Well placed grab bars can give the senior safe hand holds to overcome the slippery floor and the unsteadiness of stepping into or out of the bath or shower. A walk-in tub can take away the high step over the side of a tub (but the person must sit in the tub while it drains before opening the door to get out.) A shower can be redone to be level with the rest of the floor.

For someone who needs a wheelchair, a home can be modified to ease access to the home's amenities. Under counter cabinets can be removed to allow the wheelchair to fit under the bathroom and kitchen sink. Storage can be provided within reach of the chair. Doorways and hallways can be widened, if necessary (more often in older houses.) If a door needs just a little more width, hinges are available that allow the door to swing all the way open. (If you don't understand what I mean about the hinges, take a close look at a door with "conventional" hinges. The door itself blocks a couple of inches of the opening of the doorway.)

The modifications discussed above are just examples. Many other possible modifications are available.

To find the modifications that make the most sense, the family may want to consult with an "aging in place specialist." Such specialists have training and experience that can help identify the most helpful modifications for the loved one's particular needs.

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 since the last newsletter

02-18-2016 #InformationTechnology for people with
#SpecialNeeds <http://ow.ly/YjEFq>

02-17-2016 #FamilyCaregivers can get online support from <http://www.caregiveraction.org>

02-16-2016 Online resources for choosing #LongTermCareInsurance,
#MedicareSupplement, and #ShortTermCareInsurance <http://ow.ly/YjfYn>

02-15-2016 #Smoking at #NursingHome creates issues for employees and
residents <http://ow.ly/YjcQE>

02-14-2016 Defining #ElderAbuse is first step in national effort to stop elder
abuse <http://ow.ly/Y2dKM>

02-13-2016 Criminals use the #SweetheartScam and the #GrandparentScam
against #Lonely #Seniors <http://ow.ly/Y2dhO>

02-12-2016 When an #AgingParent wants to stay
#Home <http://wp.me/p47F09-hK>

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

1-12-2016 Jim Koewler was named Chair of the Public Relations Committee
and of the Scholarship Committee for the Richfield (Ohio) Chamber of
Commerce.

2-1-2016 Jim Koewler was re-elected Chair of the Board for the Richfield
Joint Economic Development District.

3-4-2016 Jim Koewler will serve on the Curriculum Advisory Board for
Miami Jacobs Career College.

3-16-2016 Jim Koewler will speak about elder law to the Medina County
Senior Services Network at Willowood Care Center in Brunswick, Ohio.

3-22-2016 Jim Koewler will discuss Ethical Issues in Case Management and
Discharge Planning at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

Continuing education credit is available for Certified Case Managers, social
workers, counselors, and nurses.

3-24-2016 Jim Koewler will discuss Ethical Issues in Case Management and Discharge Planning at ManorCare in Mayfield Heights, Ohio. Continuing education credit is available for Certified Case Managers, social workers, counselors, and nurses.

3-30-2016 Jim Koewler will discuss Ethical Issues in Case Management and Discharge Planning at Medina General Medical Center in Medina, Ohio. Continuing education credit is available for Certified Case Managers, social workers, counselors, and nurses.

4-7-2016 Jim Koewler will discuss Ethical Issues in Case Management and Discharge Planning at Fairview Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Continuing education credit is available for Certified Case Managers, social workers, counselors, and nurses.

4-14-2016 Jim Koewler will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the Senior Citizen Prom sponsored by the Soprema Wadsworth Senior Center at the high school in Wadsworth, Ohio.

10-6-2016 Jim Koewler will discuss Veterans Benefits that Help with Long Term Care at Fairview Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Continuing education credit is available for social workers, counselors, and nurses and will be available for Certified Case Managers.

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

Jim's available presentations

- Ethical Issues in Case Management and Discharge Planning (Continuing Education credit and Ethics credit available for social workers, counselors, nurses, and Certified Case Managers)
- Overcoming Seniors' Resistance to Long Term Care (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Preventing Senior Fraud (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- My Care Ohio and Medicare/Medicaid "Dual Eligibles" (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Navigating Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- What people "Know" about Long Term Care that is Wrong (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Government Benefits that can help Pay for Long Term Care (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Legal Issues for People with Dementia (Continuing Education credit

- available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
- Veterans Benefits that Help with 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)
 - Organizing for Long Term Care (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
 - Pre-planning your Final Arrangements (Continuing Education credit available for social workers, counselors, and nurses)
 - Elder Law: A Primer (Continuing Legal Education credit available)
 - Protecting your Money when you need Long Term Care and Essential Estate Planning Considerations (with free living wills for up to 20 audience members)
 - Health Insurance for Families: The Affordable Care Act ("ObamaCare,") Medicaid, and Medicare
 - Myths about Long Term Care Costs
 - How to help your Parents Manage their Affairs
 - Legal Lessons for Life

Upcoming meetings

02-23-2016 Summit County Senior Services Network, Anthony Kucko Kertesz Funeral Home, Akron, Ohio, 8:00 a.m.

02-23-2016 Professional Networking Group, Elmcroft Assisted Living, Sagamore Hills, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

02-23-2016 Wayne Holmes Senior Service Coalition, Wayne County Care Center, Wooster, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

02-25-2016 Parma Hospital Senior Resource Network, Century Oak Care Center, Middleburg Heights, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

02-25-2016 Portage Senior Services Network, Family and Community Services Building, Ravenna, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

02-25-2016 The Association of Specialists in Aging, Mentor Senior Center, Mentor, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

02-26-2016 Eldercare Professionals of Ohio, Heartland of Twinsburg, Twinsburg, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

03-01-2016 Aging Services Network East, Euclid Hospital's Waltz Auditorium, Euclid, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

03-01-2016 Montrose SeniorCare Networking Group, Panera Montrose, Bath, Ohio 8:30 a.m.

03-01-2016 Stow ElderCare Networking Group, Corner Cup Coffee House, Stow, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

03-02-2016 Stark Senior Services Network, Myers Lake Ballroom, Canton, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

03-02-2016 Richfield Chamber of Commerce luncheon, The Taverne of Richfield, Richfield, Ohio, 11:45 a.m.

03-02-2016 Medina County Senior Services Network's Client Services Committee, Sully's, Medina, Ohio, 3:00 p.m.

03-09-2016 Medina County Senior Services Network, Willowood Care Center, Brunswick, Ohio, 8:00 a.m.

03-10-2016 Lorain County Senior Services Network, Mercy Hospital, Lorain, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

03-10-2016 Summit Senior Sales, Administration and Marketing Association Social Worker Luncheon, Alpha Phi Alpha Homes headquarters, Akron, Ohio, 11:30 a.m.

03-11-2016 Eldercare Professionals of Ohio, Pearl Crossing, Strongsville, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

03-15-2016 UH Bedford Medical Center Senior Network, Vista Springs, Macedonio, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

03-16-2016 Professional Association Specializing in Seniors ("PASS"), Punderson State Park, Manor House, Newbury, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

Newsletter Archive

Past issues of this newsletter can be found in the [newsletter archive](#) on the firm's website, 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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