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Seniors and Special Needs News - March 11, 2016

1 message

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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 Technology

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. The [February 18, 2016](#) installment discussed home modifications that may make it easier for an aging adult to stay home. The [February 25, 2016](#) installment discussed medication management. Today's installment will discuss technologies that can make it easier for an aging adult to stay home.

Perhaps, the most well known device that helps aging adults stay in their homes is the pendant monitor. (If you're old enough, you remember "I've fallen, and I can't get up.") The older adult wears the pendant. If he or she falls, the pendant has a button to push that allows the person to talk to a base receiver in the home. (Push the button, and talk is much like a walkie-talkie.)

As the older adult talks into the pendant (well, actually, talks into the air and the pendant picks it up,) the pendant sends the message to the base. The base is connected to the phone line (or to a cell number, if the house doesn't have a land line.) When the senior pushes the button on the pendant, the base places a phone call to a designated monitoring service. The monitor will hear what the senior says "into" the pendant and can initiate a response, like

calling an ambulance, for instance. The monitor can also speak to the older adult through the pendant, keeping him or her up to date on what is happening. (It's kind of like GM's On Star system that way.)

Of course, if the older adult suffers from some form of cognitive impairment, he or she may not remember to use the pendant to summon help. (I worked with a family in the past in which the mother's ability to remember her pendant was a big issue among the adult children.) A pendant isn't much good when the wearer doesn't remember to use it. Likewise, a pendant isn't much help if a fall knocks the person unconscious and incapable of pressing the button. To avoid these problems, there are pendants now available that detect when the wearer has fallen. The pendant will call the base itself if it detects a fall. (Unfortunately, these systems sometimes detect a fall when the person has not, in fact, fallen.)

With the availability of security cameras and video feeds over the internet, adult children can keep an eye on aging parents from their computers. With one or two cameras, children can check whether their parent is moving around the house. With a number of cameras, children can keep an eye on their parent anywhere in or around the house.

In addition, if the parent has a cell phone or something else that he or she keeps close all the time, the children can attach a gps locator, allowing the children to check the parent's location at all times. While gps locators may not be sensitive enough to follow movements in the house, they are useful to find the aging adult if he or she has wandered away from the house. (If the parent has a medical monitoring pendant, a gps locator may be attached to it.)

If the aging adult lives in a "smart house" (or in a house that can be updated with smart technology, the house's technology may be used to keep the adult safe. Smart houses can often monitor for a stove left on too long. They can monitor the temperature inside the home (to make sure the aging adult isn't living in an overly cold or overly hot house.) Motion detectors can check whether the parent is moving around. Contact switches can monitor doors to see if they've been opened.

New technology can be used to help keep an aging parent home. To be fair, the technology is more reactive than proactive. The technology allows a monitoring company or the family to respond more quickly to a problem or to an usual behavior pattern. The technology won't get the aging adult up and out of bed. It can, however, let family know when the parent is staying in bed overly long (possibly indicating a problem.) Technology allows the aging parent to stay in his or her home longer by making the family less scared of emergencies.

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

03-10-2016 #Reading #Apps for children with #SpecialNeeds <http://ow.ly/Z06E2>

03-09-2016 #FamilyCaregiver needs to watch his or her own #Nutrition <http://ow.ly/Z7Fc1>

03-08-2016 Features of #Hybrid #LongTermCareInsurance <http://ow.ly/Z7PTw>

03-07-2016 #NursingHomes & #AssistedLiving should prepare for #OlderAdults that try to leave <http://ow.ly/Z7HM4>

03-06-2016 Guide to talking with #AgingParent about #Prescriptions <http://ow.ly/Z7oCh>

03-05-2016 #Phone #Scams that target #Seniors <http://ow.ly/Z5ZSf>

03-04-2016 When an #AgingParent wants to stay #Home, consider whether professional #InHomeCare is appropriate <http://wp.me/p47F09-hW>

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

3-17-2016 The Koewler Law Firm will have a table display at the "Mini" Resource Fair at the University Hospitals Bedford Medical Center in Bedford, 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.

3-26-2016 The Koewler Law Firm will have a table display at the Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce Community Expo at the Natatorium and Fitness Center in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

3-30-2016 Jim Koewler will discuss ABLE Accounts for people with special needs at a meeting of the Special Needs Network at the Cuyahoga County Library branch in Brecksville, Ohio.

3-30-2016 Jim Koewler will discuss Legal Issues when someone has Dementia at Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights, Ohio. Continuing education credit is available for 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.

4-27-2016 The Koewler Law Firm will have a table display at the Spring Fling organized by the University Hospitals Bedford Medical Center's Senior Net at the Hilton Garden Inn in Twinsburg, Ohio.

4-28-2016 Jim Koewler will discuss Ethical Issues in Case Management and Discharge Planning at The Merriman in Akron, Ohio. Continuing education credit for ethics is available for social workers, counselors, and nurses.

5-10-2016 The Koewler Law Firm will have a table display at the Senior Celebration organized by the Portage County Senior Services Network at the Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown, Ohio.

5-10-2016 The Koewler Law Firm will have a table display at Senior Day organized by the Stark County Senior Services Network in Canton, Ohio.

06-06-2016 The Koewler Law Firm will provide snacks for Senior Movie Day Out for Soprema Senior Center 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

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.

03-17-2016 Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce, "Falls After Five," Western Reserve Hospital, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 5:00 p.m.

03-21-2016 Medina County Senior Services Network's Education Committee, Yours Truly, Medina, Ohio, 11:30 a.m.

03-22-2016 Summit County Senior Services Network, Anthony Kucko Kertesz Funeral Home, Akron, Ohio, 8:00 a.m.

03-22-2016 Professional Networking Group, Manor Care, Twinsburg, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

03-22-2016 Wayne Holmes Senior Service Coalition, Wayne County Care Center, Wooster, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

03-23-2016 Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, Sheraton Suites, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 11:30 a.m.

03-24-2016 Portage Senior Services Network, The Atrium at Anna Maria, Aurora, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.

03-25-2016 Eldercare Professionals of Ohio, Hamlet Village, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

03-26-2016 Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce, Community Expo, Natatorium, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

03-30-2016 Special Needs Net, Public Library, Brecksville, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

03-31-2016 The Association of Specialists in Aging, Mentor Senior Center,

Mentor, Ohio 8:30 a.m.

04-05-2016 Montrose SeniorCare Networking Group, Panera Montrose,
Bath, Ohio 8:30 a.m.

04-05-2016 Stow ElderCare Networking Group, Corner Cup Coffee House,
Stow, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

04-06-2016 Canton Senior Expo, Canton, Ohio, 8:00 a.m.

04-06-2016 Stark Senior Services Network, Myers Lake Ballroom, Canton,
Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

04-06-2016 Richfield Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Richfield Days Inn
and Suites, 11:45 a.m.

04-06-2016 Medina County Senior Services Network's Client Services
Committee, Sully's, Medina, Ohio, 3:00 p.m.

04-08-2016 Eldercare Professionals of Ohio, O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood,
Ohio, 9:00 a.m.

04-08-2016 Professional Networking Group of Cleveland, Chagrin Fall
Senior Center Health Fair, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, 9:30 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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