



WALT SHURDEN LAW

April 2016

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HELP! Mom is Going to Rehab from the Hospital

By Walt Shurden

Do you want to be prepared for the sudden hospitalization of a vulnerable family Member? If so, this brief article and the accompanying video on our website should be of help.

Here are the basics: to be well prepared you need to have the authority to act on your family member's behalf, and you need to know about one issue that is affecting our population of medically needy seniors in Florida.

Authority: Your ability to deal with your family member's financial incapacity will come primarily from your durable power of attorney document and the incapacity provisions of your family member's revocable trust. The best person to draft these documents is the person who will later assist you with using these provisions to get help paying for long term care. You really must have these documents in place.

Knowledge of What is Happening With Our Needy Population: Approximately 58,000 Florida seniors and disabled persons who need help with their activities of daily living are waiting for an opportunity to apply for Medicaid. These people need the help of an aide in their home or they need some money to help pay their assisted living facility. But they are not currently permitted to make an application for assistance because rules for this "community Medicaid" population allow the state to toggle the money to fund these programs on and off. Lately the funds seem to be toggled "off" in all but the most serious cases, like those involving serious self-neglect and exploitation.

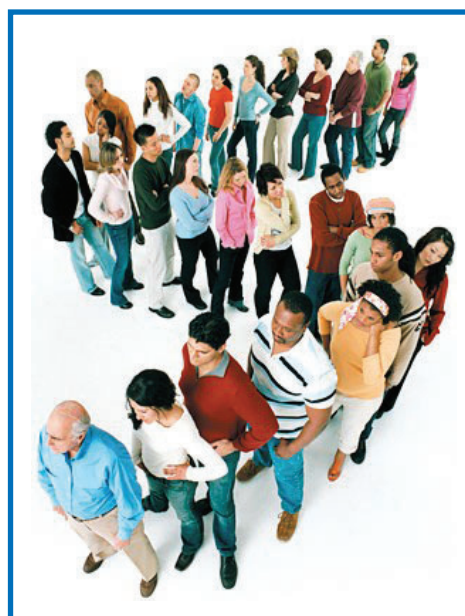
Things are different in a nursing home. Upon being admitted to a nursing home each person gains the right to apply for Medicaid services. No waiting list, yeah! But the right to apply goes away upon discharge from the nursing home. So what can be done?

If your family member is hospitalized and discharged to a

skilled nursing facility for rehabilitation, then you should consider taking advantage of this otherwise bad turn of events by applying for Medicaid. When the application is approved,

your family member can then take their newly acquired Medicaid benefits home or to an assisted living facility. If your loved one will return home, the benefits provided by Medicaid eligibility, like home health aides, will give your family member a better chance of remaining at home. If your family member is discharged to assisted living, then the approximate amount of \$1,100 paid by Medicaid to your family member's assisted living will also help. So take note: transferring Medicaid nursing home benefits to a person's home or assisted living facility lets you get your family member some help now, without being on the long waiting list.

For additional information go to our web site www.waltshurdenlaw.com and watch the video on our home page



Our Goal

To provide exceptional legal service to our clients.

Estate Planning • Fiduciary Services • V.A. Benefits • Irrevocable Trusts • Medicaid Eligibility

Kathy's Herb Garden



This Month's Spotlight

Robert and Glenna Burnham

Bob and Glenna have lived and volunteered at St. Mark Village for seven years. They moved to Florida originally as snowbirds from New Hampshire.

Bob owned and operated a plumbing and heating company and Glenna was a secretary for a law firm.

Bob visits residents in the nursing center that have no other visitors, works at the front desk at the Highland Assisted Living location, and plays cards weekly with the residents.

Glenna manages the greeting card shop. Her duties include managing the volunteers, ordering cards and working in the shop three afternoons a week. She also writes articles for the St. Marks Village community newsletter. They both enjoy volunteering and giving back to the community.

They have three children and recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Thank you



Growing Your Own Good Taste

Many herbs can be grown in Florida to enhance your recipes. Some of the easiest to grow are rosemary, basil, oregano, mint, and thyme. These can be grown in containers, indoors or out. Kathy gave some of the basil she grew to Jen who used it in this great recipe.

Pizza Margherita Grilled Cheese

- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 14.5 oz fire-roasted canned tomatoes
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 16 oz fresh mozzarella cheese sliced
- 1 cup basil leaves
- 8 slices sourdough bread
- 3 Tbsp butter, melted



1. In a small saucepan, heat olive oil and garlic over medium heat. Saute until softened (about 1 minute) Add tomatoes, salt and sugar. Simmer for 8-10 minutes. Set aside.
2. Heat a large cast-iron skillet or griddle to medium heat.
3. Spread about 2 tablespoons of sauce on each slice of bread. Top with 4 oz of sliced cheese. Top with 4-5 leaves of basil.
4. Drizzle with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Place top bread, sauce side down on cheese and basil. Brush tops with butter.
5. Place sandwich butter side down in heated skillet, brush other side with butter. Cook until golden brown and crispy on each side and the cheese is melted.

Snowbirds

Time to say “so long” for another season – Good or Bad



OR



What do you think when you hear “snowbirds”?

The word “snowbird” was first used in 1923 to describe seasonal workers who came south for the winter. By 1979 it was common as a reference to all the tourists who ‘flocked’ to Florida to get away from the cold.

For people who commute to work, snowbirds mean traffic congestion and longer commute times. Snowbirds can mean longer waits in restaurants and emergency rooms.

For local shop and restaurant owners snowbirds mean more business and more profit. For the employees of these businesses snowbirds mean extra hours, bigger paychecks and more tips. Experts say that because of the more advanced age of the snowbird population, more medical facilities have been built to accommodate them to the advantage of the year-round population.

According to a survey by the University of Florida (<http://www.ufl.edu>) there is a 20% population shift in Florida between winter and summer. They attribute this not only to the snowbirds, but also to “sunbirds”, Florida residents who travel out of state for more than 30 consecutive days in the summer. The survey indicated that a majority of sunbirds travel back to states where they once lived and while snowbirds travel to Florida to get away from bad weather, it is rare that sunbirds travel to get away from the heat. In a Focus on Florida special report (www.npg.org/specilareports/FL/fl_report.html) it was reported that there are almost one million snowbirds who reside in Florida each winter. They expect that number to increase substantially in the next ten years as the last of the baby boomers retire.

Jackie Woodfield



Jackie is new to our office as a part-time bookkeeper. She comes in to the office a couple of days a week to help as needed.

Jackie moved to Florida from Texas in 2007 where she worked doing cost accounting for building construction. She has been semi-retired since she moved to Florida, only accepting jobs that she enjoys.

She loves the flexibility of her work which allows her time for her hobbies of golf and music, and most importantly traveling around the United States to visit the families of her sister and four brothers.

Welcome Jackie!

Remember, we can help you with:

Estate Planning
Fiduciary Services
VA Benefits
Irrevocable Trusts
Medicaid Eligibility



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Legal Term of the Month

Standing – The legally protectable interest that an individual has in a dispute that entitles him to bring the controversy before the Court to obtain judicial relief.

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**The Shurdens
at Easter**



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