



Elder Law and Life Care: *Planning, Strategies & Solutions*



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Using a Professional Geriatric Care Manager

Services from geriatric care managers should be something that every family takes advantage of, but in reality very few families use them. Geriatric care managers could go a long way towards helping the family find better and more efficient ways of providing care for a loved one.

The concept is simple. The family hires a professional adviser to act as a guide through the maze of long term care services and providers. The geriatric care manager has been there many times. The family is experiencing it usually for the first time.

Hiring a geriatric care manager should be no different than hiring an attorney to help with legal problems or a CPA to help with tax problems. Most people don't attempt to solve legal problems on their own, and the use of professional tax advice can be an invaluable investment. The same is true of using a geriatric care manager.

Unfortunately there are too few geriatric care managers and the public is so poorly informed about the services of a geriatric care manager, that valuable resources that could be provided go lacking.

The irony of not using a geriatric care manager is that most families – when given the opportunity to use the geriatric care manager -- think they can do it themselves and will not pay the money. Yet the services of a geriatric care manager most likely will save them considerably more money than do-it-yourself. The cost of the geriatric care manager might be only a fraction of the savings the geriatric

care manager could produce. Geriatric care manager services can also greatly reduce family and care giver stress and help eliminate family disputes and disagreements.

Even the Yellow Pages do not cooperate in helping the public find geriatric care managers. To find a geriatric care manager one must look in the Yellow Pages under "Senior Services". Who is going to know to look under that subject?

Below is a partial list of what a geriatric care manager might do:

- Assess the level and type of care needed and develop a care plan
- Take steps to start the care plan and keep it functioning
- Make sure care is received in a safe and disability friendly environment
- Resolve family conflicts and other family issues relating to long term care
- Become an advocate for the care recipient and the family caregiver
- Manage care for a loved one for out-of-town families
- Conduct ongoing assessments to monitor and implement changes in care
- Oversee and direct care provided at home
- Coordinate the efforts of key support systems

- Provide personal counseling
- Help with Medicaid qualification and application
- Arrange for services of legal and financial advisors
- Manage a conservatorship for a care recipient
- Provide assistance with placement in assisted living facilities or nursing homes
- Monitor the care of a family member in a nursing home or in assisted living
- Assist with the monitoring of medications
- Find appropriate solutions to avoid a crisis
- Coordinate medical appointments and medical information
- Provide transportation to medical appointments
- Assist families in positive decision making
- Develop long range plans for older loved ones not now needing care

Geriatric care managers are also actively involved in helping families with the selection of facilities and any appropriate care services. Finally, geriatric care managers are indispensable in helping coordinate and arrange for care for a loved one living far away from family members. To find a Professional Geriatric Care Manager go to internet web site www.caremanager.org

New Medicaid rules went into effect on October 1, 2006. As a result of legislation passed and signed into law on February 8, 2006, know as the "Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, many seniors in need of nursing home care will find it much more difficult to qualify for Medicaid Assistance.

For more information on these changes just contact us in any of the ways listed below and ask for the pamphlet "**The Consumers Guide to Medicaid Planning and Division of Assets**"

If you would like to learn more about this and other elder law and life care planning solutions, visit us on line at www.texaselderlawattorney.com. or contact our office for a Free consultation. When you call, please ask us to send you any of our elder law educational materials. We publish the following booklets as a public service:

"Consumers Guide to Medicaid Planning and Division of Assets"

"The Texas Nursing Home Guide"

"Consumers Guide to Hospice"

"Alzheimer's Survival Guide"

"Consumers Guide to Veteran Benefits"

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Contact us today and let us show you solutions that will bring you peace of mind today and security for tomorrow.