



# SILVER LINING

Home Healthcare

## ELDER LAW



### What is Elder Law?

Elder law is a specialized area of legal planning meant to guide any adult through lifetime planning, end of life planning, and asset protection planning. At the root of elder law is estate planning. Additional Elder Law Practice areas include VA Benefits, Medicaid Planning, Special Needs Planning, Paying for Long Term Care and Asset Protection Planning.

### What is Estate Planning?

For many, the concept of estate planning may seem limited to signing a series of lengthy, legal documents to meet the goals of providing for loved ones, reducing tax liability, and avoiding probate. A true estate plan encompasses much more than executing the right documents, and encourages reflection on both the brevity of life and the client's unique family dynamics.

Planning for the future can evoke overwhelming feelings of anxiety, insecurity, and the desire to avoid the topic all together. Working with the right team of professionals, engaging in productive communication, and taking the process one step at a time can help ensure a positive and goal-oriented outcome while making these necessary arrangements. Additionally, the sooner a family takes these steps, the more legal planning opportunities they may have to succeed in meeting their goals.

### How do we identify the best legal professionals in this specialty of law?

Consider the questions below. The Elder Law firm that can answer these questions without hesitation may prove to be a great fit for your needs.

### Top 10 Questions to Ask Your Elder Law Attorney

1. Does your firm focus only on this area of the law?
2. Are you a solo practice or do you have a team of professionals working on my case? What steps/process will I follow? Who will be my point of contact?
3. Do you offer educational events in my local community?
4. What steps do you take to remain up-to-date on current state and federal law, and Medicaid rules?
5. What kinds of planning strategies do you use to shelter assets?
6. What protections are offered to the healthy spouse?
7. What is the likely outcome of my case based on the facts I have shared with you?
8. Are fees computed on a flat or hourly rate and how often does the attorney bill? Does the pricing I have been quoted include the funding of my Trust?
9. What is your success rate of avoiding probate when a client passes?
10. Do you offer an Estate Planning Maintenance Program?

### When is the best time to talk with an elder law attorney?

The best time to have a conversation with an elder law attorney is BEFORE you need them. The next best time? Now. If you think it might be too late, don't! Meeting with an elder law attorney is valuable at any time because it may end up saving you time and money.

For your convenience, here is a list of well-established and locally-known attorneys to consider.

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