

## **Life Care Planning is a unique, elder-centered specialty of elder law: The Interdisciplinary Elder Law Approach To Managing Chronic Care Issues for Seniors**

Lifescope Law & Development is a Life Care Planning Law Firm. We offer an **interdisciplinary team that collaborates** to identify present and potential future care needs, locate appropriate care, ensure high-quality care, AND secure the best means to pay for that care.

**\*Disclaimer:** The information provided in this presentation is intended to be educational and informational only and should not be construed as tax or legal advice. Seek the advice and counsel of an attorney as to your specific situation.

### **Role of An Elder Lawyer**

*Under this holistic approach, the elder law practitioner handles general estate planning issues and counsels clients about planning for incapacity with alternative decision making documents. The attorney would also assist the client in planning for possible long-term care needs, including nursing home care. Locating the appropriate type of care, coordinating private and public resources to finance the cost of care, and working to ensure the client's right to quality care are all part of the elder law practice. —NAELA (National Association of Elder Lawyer*

### **WHO BENEFITS FROM LIFE CARE PLANNING:**

- Individuals having trouble with self-care activities – Folks who are dealing with the effects of aging, chronic illnesses like Dementia, stroke, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, or a disability due to illness or an accident.
- People who are unable to live at home without assistance. Often you discover your loved one is wandering, malnourished, dehydrated or unable to take care of themselves.
- Any person looking for ways to pay for long-term care.
- Individuals increasingly reliant on family caregivers.

In fact, Life Care Planning can benefit individuals of any age who have been permanently disabled due to illness or accident.

Additionally, Life Care Planning is a huge help to Caregivers looking for help and/or experiencing burnout.

### **FOUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF A LIFE CARE PLAN:**

- **Quality Care & Safety**
- **Find Ways of Financing the Care**
- **Selecting Proper Care**
- **Life Change**

**A Life Care Plan defines, prioritizes, and mobilizes every aspect of an individual's care AND preserves family wealth to the greatest extent possible.**

**ELEMENTS OF A LIFE CARE PLAN-** A Life Care Plan is customized to the needs of the individual and family and can **include one or more or ALL the following services:**

- **LEGAL SERVICES** – Aging, illness, chronic conditions, and disability create a barrage of potentially devastating legal issues. The Life Care Plan will include aspects of Elder Law, Estate Planning, and Advocacy Services as are appropriate under the circumstances.
- **CARE COORDINATION** – Families protecting their loved ones need help finding and coordinating quality care.
- **CLIENT ADVOCACY** – Fighting for the rights of our clients. They have a legal right to safe, effective, and patient-centered health care.
- **CREATIVE FINANCE OPTIONS** - Every Life Care Plan includes support with Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Long-Term Care Insurance, Medicare, Private Assets, VA and Medicaid Benefits.

### **WHAT IS THE RIGHT TIME TO GET A LIFE CARE PLAN?**

**Immediately after an event** ... that **“trigger event”** that causes the family members to be concerned for their loved one’s future.

Trigger events often “signal” a deteriorating **change** in health – that - whether weeks or months or years down the road - will require long-term care. Trigger events are like

- ◇ A diagnosis of a chronic condition (such as cancer, Dementia, Parkinson’s),
- ◇ A catastrophic event (such as a fall, fire, car wreck,
- ◇ A medical event (such as a heart attack, stroke, aneurism), OR
- ◇ Caregiver’s burnout.

### **A PRE-CRISIS LIFE CARE PLAN**

- ◇ Gets the loved one the care needed NOW
- ◇ Offers peace of mind and relief to the Caregivers
- ◇ Plugs the family into the network of community services, resources, and support
- ◇ Increases the odds that the loved one can age at home
- ◇ Get the family’s legal and financial affairs in order
- ◇ Avoids care and financial crisis

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We can assist you and your clients - call our office for more information.