

Elder Law FAQ

Senior advisors can't meet your legal needs. Geriatric care coordinators can't protect your assets. Traditional elder law firms can't help you coordinate care. The Elder Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs does it all.

Q: What is the difference between an elder law firm that practices Life Care Planning and a traditional elder law firm?

A: There are three major differences.

1. **Objective.** Traditional elder law firms focus saving the elder's money to pass on to the next generation. Life Care Planning law firms focus on using the elder's money to maximize quality of life and independence while preserving assets to the greatest extent possible.
2. **Scope.** Traditional elder law firms limit their practice to solving the legal and financial problems created by long life, illness or disability. Life Care Planning law firms help families respond to legal, financial and care-related challenges.
3. **Timing.** Traditional elder law attorneys begin working with families late in the elder's life, typically when the elder is facing the asset protection crisis created by the immediate need for long-term care outside the home. Life Care Planning law firms are equipped to manage the asset protection crisis, but they also work with families well before an elder needs long-term care—often after a diagnosis or trigger event that leaves them concerned that the elder's condition is deteriorating, even though it could be months or years before long-term care outside the home is needed.

Q: What services does a Life Care Planning law firm offer?

A: Like traditional elder law firms, we help families make immediate arrangements for long-term care in order to protect an elder's health and safety. We also do all the legal work and help family members find and pay for the right care without bankrupting the elder. But we also offer much more.

First, we offer care coordination and support to families whose elderly loved ones are still living at home or with family. Our on-staff elder care coordinators locate and coordinate needed care and community services, offer family education and serve as the elder's advocate. This lightens the load for family caregivers, improves the elder's quality of life and can even postpone the need for nursing home care.

Second, while the elder is still living at home or with family, we develop a plan to handle the legal, financial, health care, housing and long-term care issues as the elder's condition progresses. If and when long-term residential care is needed, the family already knows how they will pay for that care. This early planning enables the family to bypass the asset protection crisis that occurs when they have to make last-minute arrangements for an elder's long-term care.

Third, when the elder is in a residential care facility, our elder care coordinator visits regularly to provide companionship, monitor quality of care and serve as the family's advocate. If problems occur, the firm's elder law attorney gets involved to resolve them as quickly as possible. This offers reassurance to family members—near and far—that the elder will enjoy the highest quality of life until the end of life.