

**JULIE OSTERHOUT**  
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*Elder Law Attorney*

If you have clients who need assistance with finding the right place for their ill family member to live and determining how to pay for it, **we can assist them with becoming eligible for Medicaid.**

If you have clients who are unable to care for themselves and make their own decisions, **we can assist their loved ones with becoming their guardian.**

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## WORDS TO THE WISE

August 2011

### Check Your Mailbox!

In our July 2011 newsletter, we told readers about changes to Florida's Durable Power of Attorney statute that will become effective October 1 of this year. If you are an estate planning client of our firm, we will be sending you a letter further explaining the changes to the statute and providing you with information about having your existing Durable Power of Attorney document updated. These letters will be mailed by September 1, 2011, so be on the lookout!

### Help End the Medicare Improvement Standard

The Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. is trying to help end the Medicare "Improvement Standard." Even though the Improvement Standard conflicts with the law, it has unfortunately become one which is followed routinely by those who provide care. Beneficiaries are routinely told that Medicare coverage will end because their condition will not improve and they have plateaued. If you or someone you know has been denied Medicare coverage because a condition has not shown improvement, Medicare coverage may have been unfairly denied. You can contact the Center for Medicare Advocacy at (860) 456-7790 or by e-mail at [improvement@medicareadvocacy.org](mailto:improvement@medicareadvocacy.org) to share your story.

Source: Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc., *Help Us End the Medicare Improvement Standard*, Center News, Vol. XXV, No.2 (Summer 2011)

#### DO YOU NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION?

The attorneys of Osterhout, McKinney & Prather, P.A. are available for seminars, talks and training on elder law topics including: Medicaid, Veteran's Benefits, Probate, End of Life Decision Making, Estate Planning and Long Term Care Planning. Please contact Persida at 239-278-4109.