

JULIE OSTERHOUT
*Emeritus Specialist in Elder Law
Of Counsel*

LANCE MCKINNEY
Certified Elder Law Attorney

BETH PRATHER
Certified Elder Law Attorney

BRITTON G. SWANK
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

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WILL RAISING MEDICARE'S ELIGIBILITY AGE INCREASE OVERALL HEALTH SPENDING?

In a report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, by Paul N. Van de Water, the raising of Medicare's eligibility age from 65 to 67 was explored. A study by the Kaiser Family Foundation estimated that the increase of Medicare's eligibility to age 67, from the current age of 65, would increase state and private-sector costs by twice as much as the net federal savings. If the proposal were fully in effect in 2014, Kaiser estimates that there would be a \$5.7 billion in net federal savings, but individuals, employers, and states would pay an estimated \$11.4 billion more in health care costs.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
<http://www.cbpp.org/files/8-23-11health.pdf>

Kaiser Family Foundation, July, 2011
<http://www.kff.org/medicare/8169.cfm>

MEDICARE PAYMENTS TO SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES REMAIN

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services reduced reimbursements by \$3.87 billion, or 11.1 percent. This is the final rule setting out Medicare reimbursement rates for skilled nursing facilities for Fiscal Year 2012, which become effective October 1, 2011.

Source: Center for Medicare Advocacy
<http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/2011/08/medicare-reimbursement-for-skilled-nursing-facilities-remains-high-for-2010-despite-reductions-in-overpayments/> August, 2011

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SPECIAL NEEDS LAW MONTH

Special Needs Law is a specialized area that involves representing, counseling, and assisting people with disabilities and their families, in connection with a variety of legal issues. The primary emphasis is to promote the highest quality of life for the individual. It addresses the interaction of legal needs with the social; psychological; medical; and financial needs of the individual. Lance McKinney has been a member of the Special Needs Alliance, which is a nationwide coalition of attorneys concentrating in the Special Needs and Disability Communities.