

WHAT IS ELDER LAW?

Elder law attorneys concentrate on issues that concern seniors, individuals with special needs, and their families. Elder law attorneys can:

- Prepare wills, trusts, powers of attorney, health care proxies, homestead declarations and other estate and healthcare planning documents.
- Assist in obtaining substitute authority for incapacitated persons via guardianship or conservatorship and advise guardians and conservators.
- Assist families in administering estates.
- Advise on buying long term care and supplemental health insurance, and evaluate proposed policies.
- Advise about Social Security, Social Security disability, and other public and private retirement benefits.
- Assist in applying for Community and Long-Term Care Medicaid (Masshealth in Massachusetts), Medicare, and other government programs.
- Provide special needs planning and advocacy to help families maximize the potential and quality of life of their loved ones with special needs.
- Make sure nursing home residents' rights are respected and respond to quality of care complaints.
- Represent clients in disputes involving nursing homes, assisted and independent living facilities, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, or managed care.
- Help address instances of elder abuse or exploitation.
- Assist in applying for Veteran's Benefits.

Attorneys who work primarily with seniors and individuals with special needs work with other professionals such as accountants, financial planners and geriatric care managers to address their clients' complex legal issues in a comprehensive way.