

THE SKETCHLEY LAW FIRM, P.A.

Providing Compassionate Support & Guidance Through Elder Law & Guardianship

NATIONAL ELDER LAW MONTH

May 2007

May, 2007 has been designated National Elder Law Month by the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Governor Charlie Crist declared May 2007 to be Elder Law Month in Florida.

According to the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), “unlike traditional lawyers, elder law attorneys deal with their clients ‘holistically’ – helping with the issues that affect a particular segment of the population rather than a narrow area of law. When clients visit an elder law attorney, they generally present problems beyond the need for a will or a power of attorney. Elder law attorneys are familiar with the network of services and providers who assist clients effectively.”

An elder law attorney not only advises clients and their families on traditional estate planning issues, but also incapacity preparation, long term care, alternative residential settings, care for disabled loved-ones, special needs trusts, protection against abuse and exploitation, the local and state long term care continuum, access to private and public funding for care, accessibility under ADA and protection of individual rights and autonomy.

The laws affecting elderly clients are always changing. Elder law attorneys must keep abreast of these changes and the consequences to their clients. According to NAELA, its members are asked to be the “premier providers of legal advocacy,

guidance and services to enhance the lives of seniors and people with disabilities.” NAELA devotes much of its resources to educating its members and providing educational resources to the public. It also advocates throughout the nation on issues that affect the lives of seniors and people with disabilities.

Since 1987, NAELA has grown to more than 5000 throughout the United States and the world. Many states, including Florida, have NAELA chapters. The Florida chapter, also known as the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys (AFELA), was established in 1993 and provides Florida members and consumers with educational resources, referrals and information.

For more information on Elder Law or to find an elder law attorney near you, visit NAELA’s website at www.naela.org or AFELA’s website at www.afela.org.

Consumers can request a free copy of “Questions and Answers When Looking for An Elder Law Attorney” by contacting The Sketchley Law Firm, P.A., P.O. Box 15338, Tallahassee, FL 32317, Telephone: (850) 894-0152 or by visiting the NAELA website at: www.naela.org.

If you would like one of our attorneys to come and speak to your organization about this topic, please contact Tracy Powell at (850) 894-0152. Past newsletters can be found at www.sketchleylaw.com.

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