

PLAN NOW TO AVOID THE EXPENSE OF LONG-TERM CARE COSTS

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**Timothy P. Crawford past Board Member
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*** Attorney Timothy P. Crawford has
been Board Certified as an Elder
Law Attorney by the National Elder
Law Foundation which has been
approved as the Sole Certifying
Organization for Elder Law Attorneys
by The American Bar Association**

This pamphlet is issued to inform, not to advise. This pamphlet is not intended to render specific legal advice. For specific legal advice, see Attorney Timothy P. Crawford.

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Can you afford a nursing home? At \$100,000 per year, for most people the answer is **NO**. Think you won't need it? Think again. If you belong to the fastest growing demographic group in America, you're part of the over 50 crowd and you're getting close to a deserved retirement.

The only problem with this scenario is the unexpected - what if you (or your spouse) becomes chronically sick, so sick you need nursing home care? With the population as a whole aging, it's very likely that you will need care at some point. Is your house safe? Is your money safe?

Social Security does NOT pay for long-term care costs whether you need care at home, in assisted living, or in a nursing home. Neither does Medicare nor any other health insurance. You must pay for long-term care yourself. After your money is spent, then (and only then) will you qualify for the government-run Medicaid (Title 19) program to step in and take over the payments. You may be allowed to keep your house and still qualify for Medicaid, but after your death the state could get your house too.

Can you prevent this financial disaster? You bet your life you can, and hundreds of people are doing it every single day. The key is planning, and the sooner the better.

Recent law changes make it more difficult to protect your assets. Even so, there are still a number of ways to shelter your assets from the ravages of long-term care costs. No single plan is right for everyone, and the options available to you depend on your personal situation, the level of your finances, and how much time you have before you need long-term care. The action you take may be all wrong for your friend, or your friend's action may be all wrong for you! However, with the variety of options available, if you take action early enough, you can often save significant money.

You worked hard to accumulate your retirement nest egg. The fact that illness hits you and not your neighbor is a random event. As a result, your life savings will quickly become totally depleted, while your healthy neighbor keeps his intact.

Medicaid is a program you have supported all your working life through taxes, without ever getting anything back. Now is the time to plan for your future. Just as you do tax planning to pay only your fair share of income taxes, now is the time that you should plan to reduce your long-term care costs.

My goal is to qualify you for Medicaid as early as possible, without having to spend all of your assets. This can be done in many ways. No person will use every technique; some are available only to couples, and others depend on your particular circumstances.

However, given the range of planning options available, there always IS an option for you, IF we plan now.

No course of action should be undertaken without careful thought and a plan. It is essential to have professional advice. This is because each action has a resulting "pro" and "con", and unless you know what the benefits and drawbacks are to a proposed course of action, you could be in for an unpleasant surprise.

Professional assistance provides the roadmap for wandering through this "minefield" of competing and conflicting options. However, not just any professional will be up to this task. **You must be certain your chosen professional is a well qualified Nationally Board Certified Elder Law Attorney practicing in the field of Medicaid planning.**

After acquiring some general information, it is then important to meet with an attorney in the elder law field to review your own circumstances and tailor a plan to cover your specific situation. Many attorneys have not stayed up to date with law changes and planning strategies that are available. The key is to be certain the attorney that you select to do your planning is knowledgeable in this area. I have helped over families per year by doing this planning for them.

With proper planning, retirement can be an exciting time of opportunity and new experiences, free from the financial worry of nursing home care costs.

REMEMBER, BY DOING PLANNING TO GET GOVERNMENT BENEFITS, YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR ASSETS FOR YOUR FUTURE NEEDS OR THE NEEDS OF YOUR SPOUSE

What Is A Certified Elder Law Attorney?

Less than 20 attorneys from the State of Wisconsin have passed the national exam out of over 800 Elder Law Attorneys that we have in the State of Wisconsin.

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford was the first Attorney to have passed the exam to become **Board Certified**. He has been **Nationally Board Certified** as an **Elder Law Attorney** by the National Elder Law Foundation which has been approved as the Sole Certifying Organization for Elder Law Attorneys by the American Bar Association.

What Is Your Next Step?

To get more information concerning the above, call for your free conference. Please call Attorney Timothy P. Crawford at 262-634-6659. We have offices located in Brookfield, Glendale, Milwaukee, Oak Creek and Racine.

(AUGUST 2015)