

WHAT IS A BOARD CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY?

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**Timothy P. Crawford past Board Member and Current Member of the
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys**

*** 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**

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WHAT IS A BOARD 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 has passed the exam and the other requirements and 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. The purpose of the Certification Program is to identify those lawyers who have the enhanced knowledge, skills, experience, and proficiency to be properly identified to the public as Certified Elder Law Attorneys. Only if the attorney is certified can the attorney hold himself out to the public as an expert or a specialist.

What Does One Need To Do To Become Certified?

1. **Licensure.** You must be licensed to practice law.
2. **Practice.** You must have practiced law during the five years preceding your application and must still be practicing law.
3. **Integrity and Good Standing.** You must be in good standing as a lawyer in The Wisconsin Bar Association.
4. **Substantial Involvement/Experience.** You must have spent an average of at least 16 hours per week practicing Elder Law. In addition, you must have handled at least 60 Elder Law matters during the last three years.
5. **Continuing Legal Education.** You must have participated in at least 45 hours of continuing legal education in Elder Law during the last three years.
6. **Peer Review/Professional References.** You must submit the names of five references from attorneys familiar with your competence and qualification in Elder Law. These persons must themselves satisfy specified criteria.
7. **Examination.** You must pass the certification examination. Less than 25% of the Attorneys who take the National exam pass.

What Is Elder Law?

Legal problems that affect the elderly are growing in number. Our laws and regulations are becoming more complex. Actions taken by older people with regard to a single matter may have unintended legal effects. It is important for attorneys dealing with the elderly to have a broad understanding of the laws that may have an impact on a given situation, to avoid future problems.

Unfortunately, this job is not made easy by the fact that Elder Law encompasses many different fields of law. Some of these include:

- Preservation/transfer of assets, seeking to avoid spousal impoverishment when one spouse enters a nursing home
- Planning for the payment of long-term care costs
- Supplemental and long-term health insurance issues
- Disability planning, including use of Durable Powers of Attorney, Living Trusts for financial management, and other means of delegating management and decision-making to another in case of incompetence or incapacity
- Guardianships
- Estate Planning, including planning for the management of one's assets during life and its disposition on death through the use of Trusts, Wills and other planning documents
- Probate – the process of changing the ownership of assets after a death
- Working with a Trust or a Probate after a death
- Nursing home issues, including questions of patients' rights
- Planning for retirement, including public and private retirement benefits, survivor benefits and pension benefits

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford can help you in these matters.

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford brings more to his practice than an expertise in the area of Elder Law. He brings to his practice knowledge of the elderly that allows him and his staff to ignore the myths relating to the elderly. He will take into account and empathize with some of the true physical and mental difficulties that often accompany the aging process. His understanding of the afflictions of the elderly allows him to determine more easily the difference between the physical versus the mental disability of a client. He is more aware of real life problems that tend to crop up as people age. All of these things will hopefully make you more comfortable when dealing with Attorney Timothy P. Crawford and his staff, and ease your way as you try to resolve your legal problem.

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

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.

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