

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford, CPA, CELA*, CAP**
wanted to share this information with you.

Plan Ahead To Avoid Court-Ordered Guardianship

GREATER MILWAUKEE AREA OFFICES IN BROOKFIELD, GLENDALE, MILWAUKEE, OAK CREEK & RACINE

Your Asset Protection Law Firm
840 Lake Avenue, Suite 200
Racine, WI 53403
(262) 634-6659

E-mail: tpc@execpc.com
Website: www.TpcLaw.com

Young adults are often urged to plan ahead and take control of their future. That could mean getting good grades and planning for college, searching for internships in their career area of interest, or saving money for the day when they are out on their own. Older adults, on the other hand (aside from being advised to save for retirement), may not know that one very important thing they should be doing to plan for their own future is to name the person or people you trust to make decisions for you.

As the elderly population moves into their 70s, 80s and 90s, it is not unusual to lose the ability to drive, manage their own finances, or even care for their own daily physical needs. When this happens, and the ability to care for yourself is lost, the courts will often give care over to a guardian – someone who will manage your money, medication, household tasks (or all of these) for you if you have not signed documents in advance.

If you have not taken steps ahead of time to name the person or people you, trust to make decisions for you then the courts will name one for you. Often the person named by the court is the first person to petition the court for the job – although this may not be the person you would choose to manage your money or your care. Thus, you need to pick the person you want by signing a document ahead of time.

The best way to ensure that you have the right person managing your finances or your health care when the time comes is to plan ahead and execute a Health Care Power of Attorney and a Durable General Planning Type Financial Power of Attorney. Together these documents let the courts know who you trust with your physical or medical care and who you feel is qualified to properly manage your money without taking advantage. These documents will help you take control of your own future, even at a time when losing some of that control may seem inevitable.

**“Those Who Plan Ahead Win.
Those Who Don’t Plan Ahead Lose.”**

This article is for informational purpose only and is not intended as legal advice. It is recommended that you call Timothy P. Crawford for a free conference to discuss your situation in more detail. Attorney Crawford can be reached at 1-262-634-6659. Please refer to this article when you call.

*Attorney Timothy P. Crawford is a Nationally Board Certified Elder Law Attorney (**CELA**). He has been Board Certified by the National Elder Law Foundation which has been approved as the Sole Certifying Organization for Elder Law Attorneys by the American Bar Association.

Timothy P. Crawford was invited to join the Council of Advanced Practitioners (CAP**) of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (**NAELA**) in August of 2005. **CAP** is a small group of premier elder law attorneys, all of whom have been members of NAELA for at least 10 years, are certified as elder law attorneys by the National Elder Law Foundation, and are AV rated by Martindale Hubbell, a service that provides an independent rating of the quality of attorneys, as one of the top attorneys in the nation.

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford has been selected as a **Fellow** of NAELA. **Fellow** is the highest honor bestowed by the Academy. Selection as a **Fellow** signifies that his peers recognize the lawyer as a model for others and as an exceptional lawyer and leader.

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford has a superb rating of 10 out of 10 with A V V O.

A V V O has awarded to Attorney Timothy P. Crawford the A V V O Client's Choice Award.

**YOUR ASSET PROTECTION LAW FIRM WITH GREATER MILWAUKEE AREA OFFICES IN
BROOKFIELD, GLENDALE, MILWAUKEE. OAK CREEK & RACINE**

**"Helping Families in Wisconsin for Over 40 Years
to Protect Their Assets from Nursing Home Care Costs"**

"A majority of text has come from an article prepared by Vincent J. Russo & Associates, P.C. is used here with permission."