## Senior Moments

Newsletter January 2014 Volume 8 Issue 1

Voelz Law, LLC

knowledge-experience-solutions

## **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2014**

## 1. PLAN FOR YOUR HEALTH FAILURE

You should sign a financial power of attorney that gives someone authority to act on your behalf if you become unable to handle your financial affairs. You could designate your spouse, your child, or another trustworthy person to be able to act for you.

Your attorney should discuss the various provisions that you can include in your power of attorney, including provisions that would facilitate asset protection planning if you may need governmental benefits to pay for your care at home or in a nursing home.

You should also decide who has the authority to make your health care decisions by appointing your health care representative. After your attending physician determines that you are no longer capable of consenting to your health care, then your health care decisions will be made by the person you have appointed as your health care representative.

You should also sign a HIPAA release that will authorize any of your doctors and health care providers to disclose and release your health care information to those persons who you appoint as your health care representative.

## 2. PLAN FOR YOUR ESTATE SETTLEMENT

You should have an up-to-date estate plan that is properly implemented. You should sign a Last Will and Testament. Your Will should distribute your estate according to your wishes, authorize the settlement of your estate without supervision by a Court, and nominate the person who you want to be responsible for the settlement of your estate.

Your attorney should also advise you about how you should own your assets and how you should designate beneficiaries of your life insurance and retirement accounts in order to properly implement your estate plan.

Our website has free planning forms, articles, and information about our law firm.

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Our mission is to provide the highest quality legal services in a timely, professional, caring, and ethical manner. We have written Senior Moments for the last 7 years as a part of our law firm's mission to educate seniors about important matters.

During 2013, we have provided information about the following:

New Federal Estate and Gift Tax Law
Social Security Payments
Indiana Inheritance Tax
Estate Planning
Untreated Hearing Loss
New Physicians Orders For Scope of Treatment (POST)
Financial Exploitation of the Elderly
Your Digital Property
Estate Planning for a "Fighting Family"
Planning For Those With Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia

Additional information is also available on our website: www.voelzlaw.com

We hope that you have enjoyed reading Senior Moments and that the information has been interesting and useful.

If we can be of service to you during 2014, then do not hesitate to call our office and make an appointment with one of our attorneys.

Happy New Year and Best Wishes!

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