

Senior Moments

Voelz, Reed, & Mount, LLC
knowledge-experience-solutions

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

www.voelzlaw.com



Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer Advocates for Seniors and Incapacitated Adults (VASIA) is a program through Thrive Alliance that recruits, trains, and supervises community volunteers to provide support and advocacy for adults in our community whom are unable to care for themselves.

The volunteers are able to make decisions on behalf of the individuals through a guardianship. The program serves adults over age 18, whom are mentally incapacitated and unable to make sound decisions, and have no family members willing or able to serve as their guardians.

There is no previous experience or expertise required. Anyone interested in helping in the lives of vulnerable community members with a willingness to devote time to the cause is encouraged to learn more.

Interested? Join VASIA's virtual training later this month:

Virtual Training Session
Wednesday, July 15, 2020
5:30-6:30 p.m.

RSVP or for more information: 812-372-6918
Or contact@thrive-alliance.org

**Our office hours are
8:30-5:00
Monday
through Friday
812-372-1303**

**Our mission is to
provide the highest
quality legal
services
in a timely,
professional,
caring, and ethical
manner.**

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The Basics of Adult Guardianships

If you have an adult family member who is incapacitated, circumstances may require you to pursue a guardianship so that you can protect the incapacitated person and his or her property. However, guardianships are not always necessary and should only be pursued for an adult if the adult is clearly incapacitated and when there is no other legal option. Here are some basic facts that you should know about guardianships:

1. A guardianship is an appointment that must be pursued through a formal hearing in a court of law.
2. At the hearing, a judge must determine that the adult is incapacitated and is no longer capable of caring for his or her person and/or finances before a guardianship may be granted.
3. A person petitioning the Court for guardianship will need to provide the Court with medical evidence of the incapacity.
4. The incapacitated person will be required to attend the hearing unless a doctor certifies that the incapacitated person cannot attend without it being harmful to his or her health.
5. The incapacitated person may hire a lawyer and present evidence to demonstrate to the court that a guardianship is not necessary.
6. If the guardianship is granted, then the incapacitated person no longer has the ability to enter into contracts or make financial decisions independently.
7. After a guardianship has been established, a court appointed guardian may need to attend further hearings seeking orders from the court before certain decisions can be made.

If you think you may need to pursue a guardianship of a loved one, you should meet with an attorney to discuss whether it is the appropriate next step and to begin the process.

Will the COVID-19 stimulus check impact my Medicaid benefits?

The COVID-19 stimulus checks issued by the government will be treated as a federal tax refund for purposes of Medicaid eligibility. Federal tax refunds are exempt for up to twelve months. Therefore, the stimulus check should not cause any disruption to Medicaid benefits.