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May Newsletter

Welcome to the monthly newsletter of **A/Z Health & Elder Law** where we share tips and information in relevant topics focused on estate planning, elder law services, and life care planning.

We invite you to [contact](#) our office at (630) 510-3213 for additional information or to schedule a consultation for assistance with your planning needs.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Upcoming Presentations by Mary Kay Furiasse



What Determines a Successful Discharge?

May 19th, 2021

12:00 PM

Live Webinar Presentation

Readmission and rehospitalization are bad news for everyone. Factors such as medical management, safety, quality of life, independence, and burden of care all contribute to create a successful discharge and reduce readmission rates.

Presented by Randy Bartosh, Chief Outcomes Officer at PBHS. PBHS is leading change in post-acute healthcare for the elderly through applied research, development, and implementation of methodologies as well as systems of care delivery and outcomes measurement through in-house and partner post-acute providers.

Join Our "Ask the Experts" Webinar: The Healthcare Challenges of Caring for Aging Parents

May 20th, 2021

12:00 PM or 7 PM

Live Webinar Presentation

We are bringing together three professionals on aging and care that will review important topics for parents and/or children to help them prepare for the challenges of healthcare as we age.

- What's the right and best thing to do when health has diminished?
- Role reversal communication between adult children and parents
- How to navigate the right solutions in crisis situations and plan to avoid chaos
- Secrets to planning ahead to avoid aging pitfalls

Your hosts are: **Mary Kay Furiasse**, founding attorney of A/Z Health & Elder Law, a Life Care Planning Law Firm. **Colleen Becvar** co-founder of Trinity Advocacy Group. **Susan Judson**, an education coordinator with JourneyCare, a not for profit Hospice.

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Estate Planning Debunked: What You Need to Know

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June 30th, 2021

12:00 PM

Estate planning remains prone to perceived misconceptions and procrastination that can lead to costly mistakes. As we have seen this last year, life can turn on a dime. You do not want to fall for the myths that keep you from planning. Estate planning is part of life planning. All are Welcome! NO FEE for consumers/community members and those not needing CE credit. Reservations are required.

For \$5.00 - 1.0 CE Credit will be awarded to Illinois nurses, social workers, and professional counselors. Payment may be made at registration. To pay by check, please make checks payable to Elderwerks Educational Services, a 501CS not-for-profit corporation and mail to 251 E. Northwest Hwy, Palatine, IL 60067

[Click Here for More Information and Registration](#)

Understanding and Using Your Electronic Health Record

August 4th, 2021

12:00 PM

Individuals' electronic access and use of their health information will be critical towards enabling individuals to better monitor their health as well as manage and coordinate their care. During this interesting presentation, Attorney Furiasse will discuss what Health IT is, its evolution, Health IT tools you can use, and the importance of HIPAA Privacy Rule and "Information Blocking". \$5.00 for 1.0 CE Credit. No Fee for

[Click Here for More Information and Registration](#)

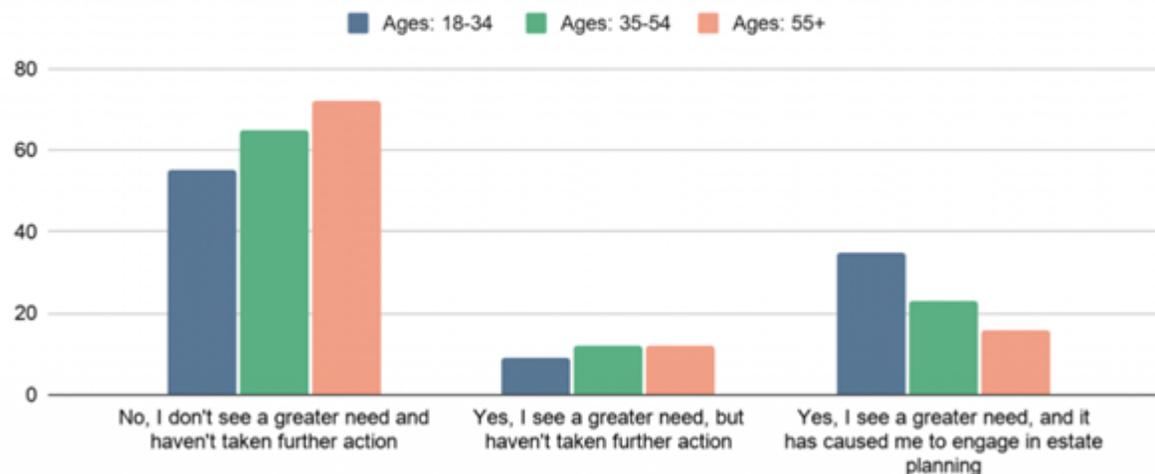
The Importance of Having a Will



The number of Americans with wills increased by a mere 2.5% over last year. Overall, the percentage of those with a will continues to decline, 33 percent in 2021 versus 42 percent in 2017. The COVID-19 pandemic sees one in three people understanding the greater need for a will, but 31 percent of those acknowledging the need, did nothing about it.

vaccinated individuals, and increasing cases in younger, healthier people indicates COVID-19 challenges will plague the US and world populations for some time to come. If for no other reason, a pandemic should motivate you to create your will. Counterintuitive to the statistics, younger adults are more likely to follow through with a will creation than middle-aged and older adults.

Age Groups Who Were Motivated by COVID-19 to See a Greater Need for Estate Planning



[Caring.com](https://www.caring.com)

Aside from procrastination as a reason for not having a will, Americans increasingly cite a lack of understanding about obtaining a will and do not know that attorney groups can create legal documents remotely. An attorney can help you develop as complex or straightforward a will and estate plan as your circumstances warrant without setting foot in their office space if need be.

Almost everyone has something of financial or emotional value they would like specific

your family, allowing you to protect a spouse and children. Your will designates who inherits your real property like a home or land you own and personal property like bank accounts, securities, jewelry, etc.

Besides determining how your property is distributed, a will can designate who will care for your minor children after you die. Without a will, the courts decide who cares for your children and their interests. Appointing a caretaker that you trust in your will affords you time to discuss how best to handle your children's mental, emotional, and financial life preparedness.

Having a will allows you the option to disinherit individuals such as an estranged relative. In the absence of a will, the state will determine who inherits assets that may end up in the hands of someone you do not wish to receive your property. This intestate (dying without a will) distribution of your property varies by state and may not provide for the distribution you prefer. The absence of a will or other estate planning documents, like a living trust, can also lead to family strife.

Caring.com finds most Americans believe that at age 35, you should have a will in place, yet most Americans do not. Though many have started contemplating a will, most get no further than casual conversations with loved ones. Surprisingly the survey finds that 58 percent of respondents who don't have a will say they do not think about or plan for it.

As the primary document for transferring your assets upon your death, your will is an essential part of your estate plan. As the COVID-19 virus continues to challenge all people's health and well-being, it is reasonable and responsible to create a plan to preserve for your heirs what it took your lifetime to achieve.

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and make sure your wishes are carried out. If you would like to discuss ways we can help, please [contact](#) our office at [\(630\) 510-3213](tel:6305103213).



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