

Helping *Elders...* and their families



Medicaid *Planning:*

The “Five Year Look Back” What Does it Mean for You?

By Ron Kearns, Esquire, R.N.

Sometimes a few seconds can feel like they last an eternity, and yet ten years passes in the blink of an eye. Before you know it, you are looking at retirement and beyond. Those questions about how to protect your assets as you get older, the questions that you never thought would be important to you, are now always on your mind.

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Client’s Corner: *Frank Murano*

“When you’re old and gray, you’ve got to hit the ball the other way.”

- Frank Murano, Member of the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame

By Richard Trust

That motto has meant a lot to Frank Murano, a superb athlete in his time – and his time is now.

At 87 years young, Frank competes regularly with traveling slow-pitch softball teams that have played tournaments in such places as Las Vegas,

Winter Haven, and Palm Springs.

Considered the oldest softball player in the country competing regularly at the tournament level, Murano has dedicated himself to the game for more than 50 years (including 30 in tourney play). His passion for this sport and his compassion for players on his team and opponents as well, sealed his 2007 induction into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Shout “Play Ball!” and this third baseman is ready to go at the drop of a bat. Frank has lived in South Weymouth for 30 years, playing for teams in Scituate, Braintree, Worcester, and

on the Cape. During the cooler months up north, the retired Boston Fire Department Inspector lives in West Palm Beach.

“I can play every day down here if I want,” he said in a recent phone conversation from Florida. Frank went 16 for 20 (an .800 batting average) in a September tournament in Las Vegas, hit .900 in at least one other tournament and estimates that he carries a .700 career average through his 50-plus years on softball diamonds.

Frank is free to play softball to his heart’s content. He and a team of

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A Letter from *The President*



David S. Corman – President

“The other day my 13 year old son and I were talking about what I do for a living and he said to me “You get to go to work everyday and help people, how cool is that?””

The other day my 13 year old son and I were talking about what I do for a living and he said to me “You get to go to work everyday and help people, how cool is that?”

Yes it is cool and it's also hard to believe that Senior Resource Center, Inc. is about to start our ninth year in business. We began with the realization that the disciplines of Elder Law, Asset Preservation and Case Management were too fragmented. Clients were seeking the advice of well meaning professionals who were not fully aware of domino effects of decisions and varying solutions in these areas for successful care and estate planning.

Thus was born the SRC model; addressing the needs of seniors and their families under one roof in a cohesive, holistic manner. Our approach has resonated throughout the community and has spawned legions of professionals that refer their clients, friends, and loved ones. The results speak for themselves! SRC has had the honor of protecting the family homes and lifetime savings, providing guidance on home care services, assisted livings and nursing homes, and workable financial solutions (including Long Term and Community Medicaid and Veteran's programs) for over 4,500 families!

Not a week goes by that we don't get a heart-felt letter, or phone call of gratitude from a family facing a financial or health crisis that we helped avert. The personal stories that we see on a daily basis have profoundly affected me

and every person who works at Senior Resource Center.

I am extremely proud of the highly professional staff that we have assembled at Senior Resource Center. Our commitment to you, and the respect, care and empathy we will always show you, is second to none.

Clients who are doing long range planning, stretching care dollars so that a care-giver can come to the home for an extended time, deciding if an assisted living facility is appropriate, or which nursing facility to entrust the care of a loved one to, or even coming up with a plan that will allow someone to stay out of a nursing home, are cases we see on a weekly basis. The downturn in the economy has helped us realize that it is more important than ever to preserve assets and protect a lifetime of hard work.

As a business we have never done any traditional advertising. Our clients are the best testimonial and referral source imaginable. If you know of a family or individual who may need our services, please have them contact us. We have expanded our office locations to assist more families throughout Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. As always, the initial consultation is at no cost. Moreover, if a family decides to hire us, we guarantee a flat fee, with unlimited meetings and phone calls. If you would like to contact me for any reason, please feel free to do so. I would love to hear from you. 🙏

I can be reached at
dcorman@helpingelders.com
or 1-888-869-6295.

Medicaid *Planning*

from cover



Medicaid eligibility requirements can be a little bit confusing, especially the regulations around the “Five Year Look Back”. This provision was written into the law in February of 2006 and can have serious consequences if you need to apply for Medicaid benefits in a nursing home. The Five Year Look Back can seriously impact your long term care and financial planning in the following ways:

1. If you give one of your children a gift within 5 years of entering a nursing home, you will most likely be ineligible for Medicaid unless you get the gift back. This is called “curing” the gift. It is generally not too popular with the children who have received the gift because they may already have spent it on home renovations or education for your grandchildren.
2. Even more egregious than the Five Year Look Back is that the penalty period (time ineligible to receive Medicaid benefits because of the gift)

starts when you enter a nursing home. No matter how small or large the gift is you still will be ineligible for Medicaid benefits unless the gift is cured or unless you “make” it past the Five Year Look Back period.

On a positive note, you may be eligible for certain exemptions such as the adult child caregiver exemption which protects your family home. According to this rule, if your adult child lives in the home and has taken care of you for the past 2 years, thus keeping you out of a nursing home, your home would be exempt from a Medicaid lien. In other words, you could keep the home and it cannot be attached by Medicaid to pay for nursing home expenses.

Five years is a long time. It is difficult to predict exactly what your needs are going to be. The best way to protect your assets from a nursing home is to avoid going into a nursing home. The staff at Senior Resource Center can show the alternatives, including community services, care at home, assisted living and support from Veterans programs.

In addition, it is now more important than ever to do early planning to protect your hard earned assets in the event that nursing home care cannot be avoided.

The professional staff at Senior Resource Center is uniquely qualified to help you examine your overall care/financial**/legal* situation and help to create a long range plan that is just right for you. If you, or anyone you know, have questions or concerns about Medicaid eligibility, Asset Preservation and Estate Planning,

we urge you to call us and take advantage of our complimentary 90 minute consultation.

In our next newsletter, the Medicaid Planning article will shed some light on the single person and spousal exemptions allowed by Medicaid. 🙏

**Senior Resource Center, Inc. (SRC) is not a law firm, but is affiliated with Falco & Associates, P.C. SRC provides a legal overview of potential legal issues and may make a referral to Falco & Associates, P.C. or a law firm of the individual's choice if legal work is necessary. Services provided by SRC are not legal services and the protections of the lawyer-client relationship do not exist with regards to these services.*

***Senior Resource Center, Inc. (SRC) and its employees are not registered investment advisors, nor do we offer or sell securities.*

Testimonials

“We realized our own assets were at risk...As a result of coming to Senior Resource Center (SRC) to work on my parents' situation, we were so impressed that we realized that it was time for us to do something to deal with our financial situation.”

- Roger and Mary Ann Giese

“I could have lost everything...I didn't know what to do after they told me about the nursing home bills; because I would've used up our entire estate...my entire estate. I really, it was one of the worst times I've had in my life. I had a very close friend; heard of my difficulties, and called me up. He had some dealings with the SRC, and he suggested and advised me to go see them. It was the very best advice I have received in my whole life.”

- Mr. John Horton

Lifetime Service Commitment

Don't lose out on benefits you are qualified to receive

Everything Changes including the eligibility requirements for Medicaid coverage. We have recently seen changes in the Caregiver's Homes program and the Veteran's Aid and Attendance program. You, or your family member, may qualify for additional benefits under either of these programs, or others that we monitor.

As well, new opportunities to help you pay for elder care services become available from time to time. Doing our job for you means keeping up with the changing laws and service programs that are introduced. If it has been a few years since last you spoke with our advisors here at SRC, now might be a great time to give us a call.

Our lifetime service agreement ensures that we are available for your

consultation and to take action, if needed, as it relates to the services we initially provided to you. In these uncertain economic times, be assured that we remain committed to this service promise. Please give us a call and let's make sure all your bases are covered.

When was the last time you looked at your legal documents? Are you still comfortable with those people that you have designated to be your Health Care Proxy or Power of Attorney? It is always a good idea to have your legal documents kept up to date.

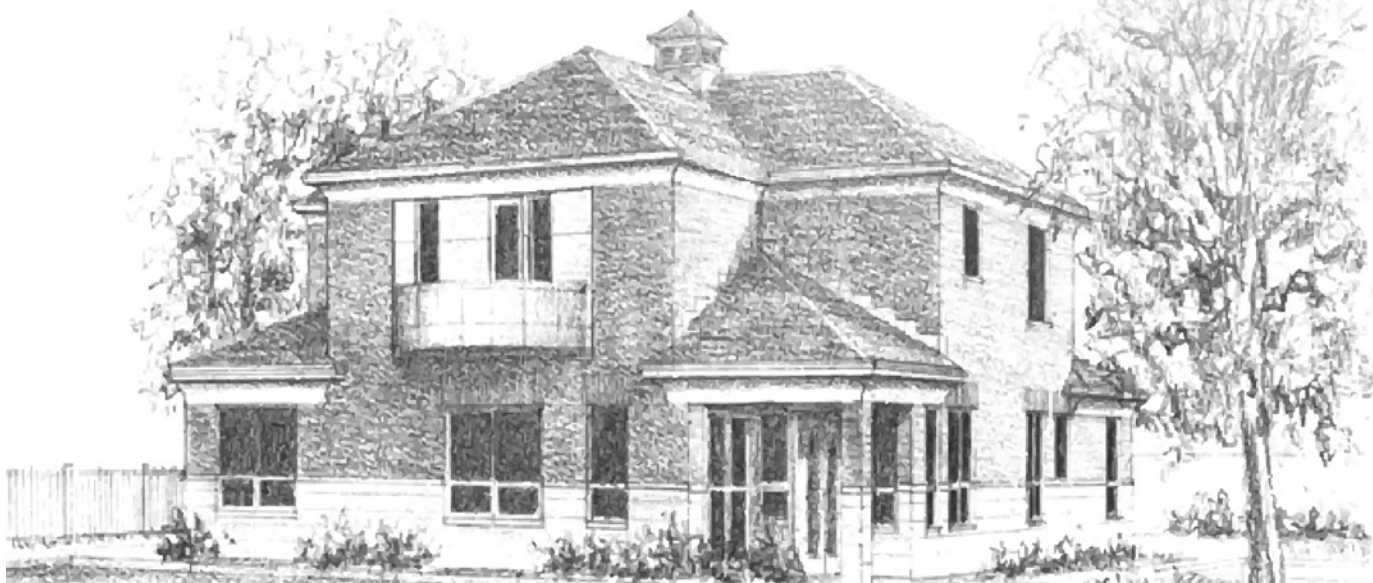
The Deficit Reduction Act of 2006 changed some of the provisions regarding Medicaid Eligibility. If your plan was completed prior to February of 2006, it would be a good idea to give

us a call and request a total review of your plan. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

You can rest assured that our service commitment to you when you first became our client covers the review we are recommending. There is no cost to you. However, you may discover money saving opportunities that did not exist when we first worked together. We are committed to being your partner for life. Call us, we'd love to hear from you. 🌟

Call SRC if...

- ✓ *it's been over a year since we talked*
- ✓ *you've experienced health changes*
- ✓ *you need to coordinate power of attorney and/or health care proxy change(s)*



Artist's Rendition of the Senior Resource Center Headquarters

SRC Locations & Our Staff

We have expanded our team and locations to support more families throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Corporate Headquarters

50 Quincy Avenue, Quincy, MA 02169

Additional Locations

11 Water Street, Suite 2A, Arlington, MA 02476

10 Liberty Street, Suite 215, Danvers, MA 01923

945 Concord Street, Suite 131, Framingham, MA 01701

15 Constitution Drive, Suite 142, Bedford, NH 03110

Our Staff Members and/or Our Affiliate Falco & Associates, P.C. Staff Members

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Kathleen M. O'Brien

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and New Business

Development

Jean Ricciuti

Operations Manager

Administrative Support

Terri A. Horion

Admin Support

Joanne M. Zahn

Admin Support

Linda M. DelSignore

Team Support

Shannon E. O'Donnell

Team Support

Remember When...

- *MacArthur shocked the world by landing behind enemy lines at Inchon*
- *The TET offensive opened America's eyes*
- *The siege of Khe Sanh broke our hearts every day*
- *Operation Desert Storm restored our national pride*

If you and/or your spouse were serving in the military during one of the conflicts represented by the above list, you (including surviving spouses) may be eligible to receive helpful financial benefits under the **Veteran's Aid and Attendance Pension**. You can use the monthly funds to help finance the cost of care services at home or at an assisted living facility.

The experts at SRC can help you determine if you qualify. We will then handle the entire application process for you as part of your plan.

**Call us at
888-869-6295,
you'll be glad you did.**

Client's *Corner*

from cover

dedicated professionals at Senior Resource Center have made sure that all of his financial, legal, and care plan options are firmly in place. Working closely with Frank and his 5 children, a plan to protect Frank's assets and ensure his ability to pass a legacy on to his 11 grand children was implemented.

From the painful process of overcoming prostate cancer to the quadruple bypass he underwent at age 82, Frank knew that he would never be a financial burden on his children because of the meticulous pre-emptive planning done by the Senior Resource Center staff. It means everything to him.

Aside from the financial legacy Frank has planned to leave for his children and grandchildren, he has given them all of the 15 tournament championship rings he won over the years. Every time they see the rings, they think of Frank!

"Everything he wins – the championship rings, watches, medals, trophies, whatever it is – he gives it away to the kids," his daughter, Joanne Laubacher, 52, of Whitman, said.

A native of South Boston, Murano played baseball, football, hockey, and ran track at South Boston High School. Playing semi-pro baseball in the Boston Park League, he got the chance to work out with the Red Sox at Fenway Park as early as 1939, the rookie year of a kid named Ted Williams. In 1942, Frank experienced the unique pleasure of hitting a baseball over the Green Monster.

Murano married Elizabeth Sheehan during a furlough from the service in 1943 and they remained husband and wife for 64 years until she passed away in September 2007.

In a letter to support Murano's Senior Hall of Fame nomination, South Shore Senior Softball League commissioner Kevin McLaughlin wrote, in part: "He is, without a doubt, the most knowledgeable and most highly regarded

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- Frank Murano, Member of the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame

player in the entire league . . . I am sure that every player in my league would agree that the National Senior Hall of Fame would be incomplete without Frank Murano."

And the Red Sox sent Frank a letter

extending their congratulations upon his Hall induction, plus a package of goodies that included some precious dirt from Fenway Park.

The spirit of Frank Murano shines through on the softball field as much as anywhere else.

"We all realized that this is a special gift he has, but it's not only just playing the sport," Frank's daughter, Joanne, said. "His true gift is his sportsmanship and ability to help improve other players. My father is a great athlete. Well, there are a lot of great athletes. But he's a gentleman and is able to teach without being Mister Know-It-All."

Ever the gentleman, Frank has told many people about the great work Senior Resource Center staff members have done for him and his family. He is grateful for the peace of mind he enjoys every day, knowing that, no matter what, his family has been provided for. 🏆



Our Partnerships



Senior Resource Center (SRC) has developed a meaningful service partnership with the Eastern Insurance Group to further help our clients and their families gain greater protection and security as part of a sound financial plan.

Eastern Insurance is one of the largest independent insurance agencies in Massachusetts. Eastern has direct relationships with over 45 major national and domestic insurance companies. With 337 professionals including Licensed Account Managers, and \$525,000,000 in combined commercial, personal, and benefits premiums. Eastern is headquartered in Natick, MA with 26 locations.

In 2008, its all about choice for consumers when it comes to auto insurance rates.

More choice means better savings opportunities for you! With over 23 personal lines companies, no one offers more choice than Eastern Insurance. Call 800-876-5510 to learn more.



Harvard Pilgrim has partnered with Senior Resource Center, Inc. (SRC) to introduce SeniorAssist, a Harvard Pilgrim *At Work for You* program, to provide pro-active support and educational tools for working caregivers to reduce stress, cope and properly plan.

Oftentimes you make uninformed decisions concerning the care of your aging parent without even knowing it, because you haven't received the proper guidance on the interdependency of legal, financial, and care management .

Through educational seminars at company locations, dedicated ask the expert email, telephone assessments and complimentary 90 minute consultations at offices throughout MA and NH, SRC provides Harvard Pilgrim employees and members with the understanding you need to make informed, pro-active decisions.

Helping Families in a Time of Need: Elder Assist Clinics

Senior Resource Center, Inc.* (SRC) offers complimentary Elder Assist Clinics at New England Rehab in Woburn, Metro-West Braintree Rehab in Natick, Braintree Rehab Hospital in Braintree, and Radius Elder Law Clinic held at Quincy Medical Center. The pre-registered private appointments with SRC's Eldercare Nurse Attorneys help patients and their families with important issues, including:

- **How to pay for current and long term health care needs**
- **How to protect your home and your hard earned assets**
- **Legal overview on estate planning**

These clinics serve as a bridge in helping rehabilitation patients and their families deal with transition needs for a safe and timely discharge home, to a skilled nursing facility, or an assisted living facility.

For more information about the Elder Assist Clinics offered at New England Rehab in Woburn, Metro-West Braintree Rehab in Natick, Braintree Rehab Hospital in Braintree and Radius Elder Law Clinic held at Quincy Medical Center, contact Elder Care Nurse Attorneys, Ron Kearns and Susan Riffe at **888.869.6295** or email rkearns@helpingelders.com or sriffe@helpingelders.com.

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