

## Rule of Thumb:

*Do not apply for Medicaid without a plan to ensure you qualify.*

Medicaid is a different program than Medicare. Medicaid is a federal program that provides health and financial coverage for people with limited assets and incomes. It covers the cost of nursing home care for those who meet the program's medical and economic requirements for eligibility. Though it is a federal program, Medicaid is administered by the states. Federal law empowers each state to enforce Medicaid eligibility rules according to its own interpretation. This means that application of these rules can vary significantly from state to state.

The Law Office of Thomas J. Hansen, LTD. can help you determine how the rules apply to your specific circumstances.

Before you get into the specifics, however, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the general federal and Florida guidelines for Medicaid qualification.

**CONTACT US. WE CAN HELP!** The best advice we can give you is this: Start planning now. No one knows what the future will bring. The sooner you start preparing for your golden years, the fewer surprises there are likely to be. A little planning now can make a big difference for you and your loved ones later on.

*Contact us today  
for a free consultation.*

*We are glad to help!  
847.292.1800*

## Crisis Medicaid Planning

One of the most difficult experiences for a family to go through is a catastrophic illness of a loved one. With there being a fifty percent chance that those over 65 will need nursing home care, this situation will happen to many of us. Financial disaster threatens when the cost of nursing home care is now almost seventy four thousand **(\$74,000)** dollars a year!

**HOWEVER, YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONE DO NOT HAVE TO LOSE EVERYTHING!**

A good elder law attorney can preserve assets and qualify the person for Medicaid. If you have a relative or loved one either already in a nursing home or about to enter one, we can help. Contact us today at 847.292.1800. Perhaps the one entering the nursing home is your spouse, and you are concerned about protecting your means of support, or your income and want to know how you will manage the maze of Medicaid regulations. We are trained to provide expert assistance in such situations.

We can generally preserve the estate of the one entering the nursing home and provide for those that are still at home.

**TJH** | LAW OFFICE OF  
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# Now is the time

*for helpful information on  
Medicaid Planning.*



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# What you need to know about Medicaid Planning..

## *Get the help (and protection) that you deserve.*

Did you know that Medicaid, in certain circumstances, will pay for your nursing home care, but only after you qualify? What that means is that Medicaid will not pay for your care until you have depleted most of your assets.

This tragic situation leaves thousands of Americans with no estate to pass on to their children, grandchildren, or other loved ones.

In today's down economy, now is the time and the opportunity is HERE to protect you and your loved ones.

Now is the time to make plans so that you do not have to spend your loved one's inheritance in nursing home care.

Though Medicaid planning can be complicated, it is important to understand this: Medicaid is there to help families like yours. Medicaid planning is the best way to ensure that you receive the benefits to protect your hard earned assets. This "planning" requires present action and cannot be accomplished without taking steps before you need the care.

The first step in Medicaid planning is education. The more you know about how Medicaid works, the better you will be able to look out for the interests of your family.

## *Things to Remember...*

### NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN

The sooner you plan, the more options you will have to protect your nest egg.

### YOU CAN KEEP YOUR HOME

If you are married, and you or your spouse need to go into a nursing home, your home is exempt from Medicaid's calculation. If you are unmarried or widowed and you go into a nursing home, your house may be exempt if you follow certain procedures. Planning is key to preserving your home.

### DON'T GIVE AWAY THE STORE

Since major changes were made to the laws in 2006, "gifting" away your assets has created significant problems. You should be aware of these changes and how it may affect you.

### MIND THOSE SAFE HARBORS

Congress has created a number of "safe harbor" provisions for protecting your assets. These exempt certain assets and allow transfers to children or siblings who meet certain eligibility requirements, such as transferring your assets into certain kinds of trusts.

### CAREFULLY CHOOSE WHEN YOU APPLY

Applying too early can mean a longer wait for Medicaid qualification than necessary, while applying too late can mean having to pay for months of care you may not have had to. Rule of thumb: Do not apply for Medicaid without a plan to ensure you qualify.

### GET THE RIGHT HELP

Medicaid planning is a complex matter. You need expert assistance to keep your assets safe. The Law Office of Thomas J. Hansen, LTD. specializes in Medicaid Planning. Call us today to set up a complimentary initial consultation.

