

## ***Professional & Compassionate Service Since 1978***

The Law Offices of Elliot S. Schlissel is composed of dedicated attorneys and paralegals who have a commitment and dedication to the rights, needs and interests of seniors. Our firm's goal seeks to preserve the dignity, control and independence of our senior clients.

Our firm seeks to provide our clients with simple, straightforward answers regarding the legal challenges faced by our clients to protect their assets and preserve their dignity. Our office deals with

- . **wills**
- . **trusts**
- . **elder law**
- . **guardianships**
- . **medicaid planning**
- . **special needs trusts**  
**(for children and disabled individuals)**
- . **disability planning**
- . **estate planning**
- . **estate administration**
- . **asset protection**
- . **nursing home matters**
- . **other issues facing  
our senior clients**

Elliot S. Schlissel obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from State University of New York at Oswego in 1972. He attended Hofstra Law School and the State University of New York School of Law at Buffalo, receiving a Juris Doctor degree in 1975. He has served as the President of the Commercial Lawyers Conference, a regional bar association. He is a member of the National Association of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA). He is a member of the Wills, Trusts and Estates Committees of the Nassau, Queens and the New York State Bar Associations. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1977.

## ***Facing the Future***

Americans, as they grow older, face different decisions from those presented to earlier generations. We are living longer life spans. We face quality-of-life issues such as incapacity and management of future health care decisions. During the course of our lives, some of us have been fortunate enough to acquire assets. It is important that these assets eventually be handed down to future generations. Our office provides elder care counseling and legal advice that can help simplify many of these issues.

### ***Wills***

A will is a basic document that every individual should have. It lays out a plan to pass assets from one generation to the next. A well prepared will can see to it that your family members receive your assets in the manner and to the extent you feel is appropriate. Wills also name an individual as an executor (if a male) and an executrix (if a female) to help carry out the specific terms and conditions of the will.

### ***Trusts***

There are many different types of trusts. Some trusts are created during the course of an individual's life time. These trusts are revocable living trusts or irrevocable living trusts. Other types of trusts deal with helping to maintain and support disabled family members or minors. These types of trusts are very often referred to as special needs trusts. Trusts can also be implemented through an individual's will. These trusts are referred to as testamentary trusts. Trusts can carry out detailed and long lasting estate plans. They can also be helpful in shielding one's assets from creditors, protecting an individuals assets from the government, allowing an individual to qualify for

medicaid, for tax planning purposes, and to see to it that your assets are not misused after your death.

Trusts exist to hold assets for the purpose of carrying out a plan set up by you. Trusts require the naming of a trustee. A trustee is responsible for managing the assets you place in the trust. The trustee must carry out his or her duties pursuant to a plan and directives laid out by you.

### ***What is a Health Care Proxy?***

A health care proxy is a document that authorizes another individual (your agent) to make health care decisions for you in the event you are unable due to an illness or an accident to make your own health care decisions. By having a health care proxy prepared for you, you insure that your instructions regarding your medical treatment will be carried out even if you are no longer capable of communicating your desires to your medical providers. Health care proxies generally take effect only when you require medical treatment and a physician determines that you are unable to communicate your wishes concerning this treatment.

### ***What is a Durable Power of Attorney?***

A durable Power of Attorney is a special type of power of attorney. The person you appoint has the legal right to stand in your place and act for you in financial, business and other matters. A durable power of attorney is special because this power of attorney remains in effect even in the event you become disabled to the point of being unable to communicate and provide instructions to the individual you name as your agent. The person named in a durable power of attorney to act on your behalf is a "fiduciary". This fiduciary is held to the highest standards of good faith, fair

dealings and undivided loyalty regarding his or her activities acting on your behalf. Durable powers of attorney may be revoked by you at any time.

## **Estate Planning**

### ***What Is an Estate and why do you need a plan?***

The person's estate is simply stated: everything that person owns. It includes bank accounts, stocks, homes, jewelry, retirement plans, life insurance and all other assets. An estate plan is a vehicle where an individual passes his assets to the next generation. It is important to have an estate plan. It empowers you to designate who inherits your assets. It is also extremely important to avoid having expenses related to health care related issues and taxes deprive your loved ones from inheriting your assets.

### ***Is my estate too small for an estate plan?***

No, there are many issues that individuals face, especially those with smaller estates. The preparation of a simple will, a health care proxy and a durable power of attorney are important documents that can see to it that your wishes are carried out, your assets are protected and your loved ones will be secure in receiving your assets upon your demise.

### ***What is a living will?***

You prepare a living will to establish your wishes regarding future health care. If a situation should present itself where there are no reasonable expectations of you recovering, you can provide specific instructions to medical or health care providers with regard to the types of medical treatment you desire to be administered to you.

## **Our Office**

Our office is centrally located at 479 Merrick Road, Lynbrook, New York 11563. We are three blocks west of Peninsula Boulevard, the north side of the street. There is convenient parking available at our office. Our regular offices hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We are accustomed to expanding these hours to accommodate our client's needs. We will visit with our clients at their homes, in nursing homes, in senior centers and at other facilities should they be unable to come to us. For our clients' convenience, we can be reached 24 hours a day by phone at: (516) 561-6645 and (718) 350-2802.

## **Directions**

Driving - Southern State Parkway to Exit 19 South ("Rockville Centre/Peninsula Boulevard".) Go three miles south on Peninsula Boulevard to Merrick Road. Make a right turn and go three blocks. We are on the corner of Curtis Place, the right hand side of the street.

Railroad - Our office is five blocks from the Long Island Railroad stop at Lynbrook (Babylon Line).

Bus - The N4 bus stops across the street from our office.

Please call for an appointment.

## **LAW OFFICE OF ELLIOT S. SCHLISSEL**

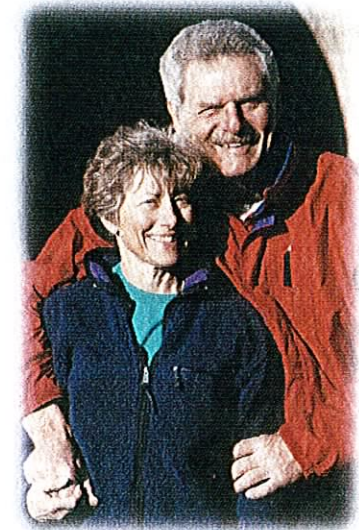
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## **ELDER LAW THE LEGAL CHALLENGES OF AGING**



*We provide our clients with the legal tools for preserving personal autonomy and assets regarding long term health and financial decisions.*

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