

## **QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES DEALING WITH ALZHEIMER'S**

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**Is it important to contact an attorney after learning a loved one has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's?** Absolutely. When someone has been diagnosed with a debilitating disease there are a number of issues an attorney can address including health care planning, estate planning and benefits planning.

**Does it matter what type of attorney I contact?** Yes, your attorney should be an elder law attorney who has experience dealing with situations similar to yours.

**When should I contact an elder law attorney?** The sooner you contact the attorney the more planning options which may exist.

**What is health care planning?** "Advance directives" enable you to state your preferences regarding medical care and also address end of life decisions. These wishes are included in a "living will" and "health care power of attorney."

**Even though someone has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's can they still complete an estate plan?** Just because someone has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease doesn't mean they necessarily no longer have the capacity to execute a will or a living trust. Even when a person with Alzheimer's may lack capacities to drive or live independently, they may still have the requisite capacity to execute estate planning documents and your attorney is an important part in ensuring your loved one meets the appropriate requirements.

**What role does an elder law attorney play in benefits planning?** The elder law attorney can assist you in understanding the types of expenses likely to be incurred and discuss with you possible sources to help pay for dementia care, including Medicare, Medicaid, disability insurance, long-term care insurance, and, Veteran's Benefits.

The information presented herein is general information only and should not be considered legal advice nor should you rely solely upon this information in taking any actions regarding your matter. While no attorney-client relationship is formed by supplying this information, please do not hesitate to contact us at (702) 798-4955 to schedule a time to discuss your particular circumstances.