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LEADERS IN LAW

A Prominent 'Lawyer on Call' for Urgent Elder Care Decisions

Howard J. Atlas of The Atlas Law Group

We all know the importance of having an up-to-date will, trust, health care directive and power of attorney. However, many families do not focus on whether those instruments are properly prepared to serve them in a crisis when an older adult is suddenly in need of long-term care.

Enter Howard J. Atlas, principal in The Atlas Law Group, who for 25 years has been a pioneering practitioner of Elder Law, a highly specialized field now serving 80 million baby boomers entering retirement age. Atlas, of course, handles traditional legal issues including estate, tax and asset protection planning, trust and estate administration, and special needs planning. However, he is also skilled in advising the elderly and their families when they face an emergency that involves a loved one in need of long-term care. Often, important planning decisions need to be made quickly.

A Proven Record in Medicaid Qualification

A large part of Atlas' practice involves qualifying people for Medicaid. He understands the nuances of asset protection and the quirks of federal and state laws, all of which can be intertwined with tax planning, estate law, real estate law and Medicaid law.

Most of all, Atlas is keenly aware it can be a process that can wear a family down emotionally.



Howard J. Atlas

TARYN MARTIN

"Just like doctors are on call, I consider myself a lawyer on call. In this type of practice you have to be there immediately for your clients for what can be an emotional and financial crisis. I can instantly offer important advice at a critical time."

— Howard J. Atlas

"Medicaid qualification can be very daunting," he says. "It's a paper monster, getting bank records and other personal documentation. When a family is dealing with an illness of a loved one, they are also terrified about the potential catastrophic cost of long-term care. We take that burden off their backs. We streamline the process by dealing directly with county Medicaid offices and nursing homes.

"If a health care facility knows I am handling a case, it will open the door wider for a potential admission into a quality nursing home. The facility will know the application process is in good hands based on my reputation and track record. The end result is that the family will have peace of mind knowing the application will be approved and their loved one will be receiving excellent care."

Not only is Atlas one of only 500 lawyers in the country certified in Elder Law by the National Elder Law Foundation, he is also one of only 90 attorneys named as a Fellow of The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. He also has the distinguished honor of being named a New York Super Lawyer the last four years.

"With a small boutique firm, the client doesn't get lost and receives compassionate and personalized advice," says Atlas. "To be able to help the elderly and their families through a crisis is very rewarding. Making a difference in their lives is truly a blessing."

ATLAS LAW GROUP

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