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Commonwealth Advisory Group Concentrates on Helping Frail Elders Stay at Home

DATELINE: DEDHAM AND PLYMOUTH, MASS...The Commonwealth Advisory Group is helping frail elders maintain their independence and stay in their own homes longer by helping them to qualify for the Frail Elder at-home program offered by MassHealth.

In order for a frail elder to remain at home, s/he typically need the assistance of a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) to help with their activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing and cooking. But, in order to qualify for a PCA, a frail elder must receive the approval of an Aging Services Access Point agency and be on Medicaid.

The Commonwealth Advisory Group helps frail elders to qualify for Medicaid. Attorney Phil Amaru and Executive Director Laureen Vaughn work with a frail elder and set up a special trust program to protect their home, life savings, stocks and bonds, etc. Once all these items are protected, a frail elder will then be eligible for Medicaid.

“Essentially, once it has been determined by the Aging Services Access Point that the elder qualifies for the Frail Elder Waiver, the elder must then qualify for Medicaid in order to receive the services of a PCA. Oftentimes a frail elder’s monthly income exceeds Medicaid’s income limits and s/he is denied Medicaid. That’s where we come in,” explained Attorney Amaru. “We will qualify the elder for Medicaid.”

Taking the Right Steps

In order to determine eligibility as a Frail Elder, the elder’s physician should refer him/her to an Aging Services Access Point (elder services agency) that serves the elder’s town. The agency will then assess the frail elder. If a frail elder is approved by the agency to retain the services of a PCA, they then must be on Medicaid to receive services.

“Frail elders shouldn’t revert to spending down their assets in order to qualify for benefits. There are ways to preserve assets for the present as well as the next generation. We can help,” noted Amaru.

With offices in Dedham, the Commonwealth Advisory Group provides professional guidance to seniors and their families with regard to asset preservation and Medicaid regulations prior to nursing home admission.

For more information contact Laureen Vaughn at 800-705-1415.

Asset Preservation Planning

For 16 years, the Commonwealth Advisory Group has helped over 1,500 clients save their assets (which includes property, gifted assets, retirement accounts, insurance policies, investments and savings) prior to and during an admission to a nursing home. Unlike financial planners, Commonwealth Advisory Group specializes in asset preservation for elders and their families.

In addition to providing asset protection services to clients, Attorney Amaru and Executive Director Laureen Vaughn serve as educational speakers for hospitals, elder agencies and businesses throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. Commonwealth Advisory Group has appeared with Jordan Rich of WBZ News Radio 1030 in variety of seminars on the topic of Senior Asset Protection.

Attorney Amaru is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; the National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys; the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys; the Massachusetts Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Commonwealth Advisory Group is located just off Route 128 at 3 Allied Drive, Ste. 125, Dedham, MA. For more information, contact 800-705-1415 or visit www.CommAdvise.com.