

Where to Get More Information

We list below a number of organizations that can help you find someone who will work with you on planning your estate.

Also, the probate courts in many states provide forms and sometimes information to the public about how to write and file the documents necessary to estate planning; call yours and see what it has to offer.

For help with living wills and health-care advance directives, you might contact one of the “death with dignity” groups. See below and chapter 12 for more on this.

FINDING LEGAL HELP

- *Finding Legal Help: An Older Person's Guide* is an excellent 20-page guide produced by Legal Counsel for the Elderly, a program of the American Association of Retired Persons. Send \$2.00 to Legal Counsel for the Elderly, P. O. Box 96474, Washington, DC, 20090-6474. Telephone, 202-434-2170. Their address on the world wide web is <http://www.arp.org>.
- Sites on the world wide web that enable you to find more information and sometimes even the names of lawyers in your area (in addition to those listed here) include <http://www.seniorlaw.com> and <http://www.netplanning.com>
- The American Bar Association's Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law offers a free directory of members who serve on its committees. Many practice estate planning, estate and trust administration, and disability planning. The directory of members gives you the names of thousands of attorneys, and committee memberships help highlight their interests and expertise. Write the Section at American Bar Association, 750 N. Lake Shore Drive, mail stop 7.1, Chicago, IL 60611, or call 312-988-5590. You can also find out more information about the Section in the ABA's home page on the world wide web at <http://www.abanet.org/rppt/home.html>.
- The American College of Trust & Estate Counsel offers a membership listing of lawyers by state whose practices concentrate in estate planning. To obtain a listing for your state, write to ACTEC at 3415 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 330, Los Angeles, CA 90034. Telephone, 310-398-1888; fax, 310-572-7280. Their home page on the world wide web is <http://www.actec.org>.
- National Association of Estate Planners & Councils can provide a listing of attorneys certified in estate planning through experience, education, and examination. (However, be aware that many estate planning specialists have not sought certification and so are not listed.) Call or write the association at 270 South Bryn Mawr Ave., P. O. Box 46, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-2196. Telephone, 610-526-1389; fax, 610-526-1224; home page, <http://www.naepc.org>.
- The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) publishes a directory of elder law attorney members, including those certified in elder law by the National Elder Law Foundation. (The specialty is new, and many lawyers qualified in elder law have not sought certification.) NAELA also provides consumer publications for older persons and their families. NAELA is at 1604 N. Country Club, Tucson, AZ 85716. Telephone, 520-881-4005; fax, 520-325-7925; home page on the world wide web <http://www.naela.org>.
- Local bar associations often operate lawyer referral services. You'll find one close to you through <http://www.abanet.org/referral/home.html>
- State bar associations can provide information about lawyer discipline and complaint procedures should you have a serious complaint about your

attorney. You can also get a complete listing of lawyer disciplinary agencies by accessing <http://www.abanet.org/cpr/disciplinary.html>

- Your local area agency on aging should be able to inform you about the availability of free or reduced-fee legal assistance available to persons over sixty in your community. Look in your local government listings under "aging" or call the National Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 to find the agency on aging nearest you. You can also search the data base of the National Eldercare Locator online through their web site at <http://www.ageinfo.org/elderloc>.
- Some states, including Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas, certify lawyers in the specialty area of estate planning. Contact the following organizations in these states to find lists of lawyers certified as specialists in this field.

State Bar of Arizona Board of Legal Specialization and MCLE

Lisa Ricchiuti-Casas, Administrator
111 W. Monroe, Suite 1800
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-1742
Phone: 602/340-7327
Internet: <http://www.azbar.org/FindingLawyer/bls.asp>

State Bar of California Office of Certification*

Phyllis J. Culp, Director
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, California 94105
Phone: 415/538-2118
Internet: <http://www.calbar.org/lgl-spec.htm>

Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education

Dawna G. Bicknell, Executive Director
650 Appalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300
Phone: 904/561-5655
Internet: <http://www.flabar.org>

Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization

Catherine S. Zulli, Executive Director
601 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
Phone: 504/566-1600
Internet: www.lsba.org/html/lawyer_specialization.html

New Mexico Board of Legal Specialization

Ingrid Mulvey, Administrator - Court Regulated Programs
P.O. Box 25883
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125
Phone: 505/797-6056
Internet: <http://www.nmbar.org/statebar/courtregprograms/legspecrules.htm>

North Carolina Board of Legal Specialization

Alice Neece Moseley, Executive Director
P.O. Box 25908
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611
Phone: 919/828-4620

South Carolina Supreme Court Commission on CLE and Specialization

Harold L. Miller, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2138
Columbia, South Carolina 29202
Phone: 803/799-5578

Internet: <http://www.commele.org>

Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Gary W. McNeil, Executive Director

400 W. 15th Street, Suite 1540

Austin, Texas 78711

Phone: 512/463-1454 or 800-204-222 ext. 1454

Internet: <http://www.tbls.org>