

# Dementia and Elder Law

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Mental incapacity from Alzheimer's disease and dementia is a long painful journey for the patient as well as the patient's family. Just as it is critical that patients and caregivers get the right health care information, it is also critical that they get the right legal and financial advice. There is no one better situated to give that advice than a qualified elder law attorney. Elder law is a discipline of law that deals with incapacity, estate, and long term care planning. Elder law attorneys are experienced in dealing with the tough issues that patients and families often face with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

From the moment Alzheimer's disease and dementia is diagnosed, it is imperative that the patient and their family get their affairs in order. Incapacity planning through the use of durable powers of attorney, designations of health care surrogates, and living wills allows for the patient and their family to have their wishes regarding financial and health care decisions put in place. Wills and trusts may be needed for estate planning. Financial planning through the use of Medicare, Medicaid and veteran's benefits may be necessary to develop a plan to pay for long term care. Elder law encompasses all of these matters.

For those patients who no longer have mental capacity, a guardianship may be needed in order to get decision makers in place. Successor trustees may have to be called to action to manage trust assets. Elder law attorneys routinely handle these things as well.

In short, elder law attorneys can aid families and patients in navigating the financial, health care, and legal maze associated with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

## Calendar of Events

**FREE CONSULTATIONS**  
**Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Legacy Harbor Memory Resource Center is open to offer a one-stop source of information, education, counseling, support, and referrals. One-on-one consultations are available with a Care Manager. Appointments suggested call 253-6320.

Consultations with Cindi Timmerman, MSW Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation are available by appointment to provide FREE information and guidance for anyone dealing with memory loss or Alzheimer's Disease, call 253-6320.

### MEMORY SCREENINGS

East Central Florida Memory Clinic will perform FREE memory screenings by appointment. Call 253-6320

**SUPPORT GROUP**  
**Safe Harbor during the Storm**  
**1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month are the time to share gentle conversation, care & understanding for those facing the uncertainty of caring for a loved one experiencing memory loss and dementia. Hosted by Rev. Donna Carey, VITAS Innovative Hospice Chaplain. For more information call Legacy Harbor at 253-6320

*FREE consultations for anyone with questions related to dementia, memory loss or Alzheimer's disease.*

