

■ AMERICA'S
LEADERS IN LAW

Elder Law Attorneys Help Families Attain Financial and Emotional Stability

Dillman Law Group

Sometimes it takes a crisis to know what really matters. For elder law attorney Lisa Dillman, that crisis was a family illness. “I had long envisioned myself as a trial attorney,” she says. “But I discovered my true calling after my grandmother suffered a massive stroke.”

Though many years have passed, Dillman still remembers the day the first nursing home bill arrived. “I thought my mother and my aunt had seen a ghost,” recalls Dillman. She quickly realized her legal experience in the courtroom was of no help to her family here. “Grandma’s money was going to be gone soon. So I rolled up my sleeves and started researching and understanding the long-term care system, the benefits available to help pay for long-term care, and the legal planning necessary to save my family from financial and emotional ruin.”

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– Bryan Moore

Dillman’s family crisis marked a turning point in her career. Today she is one of Indiana’s leading elder law attorneys. And her Indianapolis-based firm, the Dillman Law Group, has helped hundreds of families secure care for a senior in need and attain both financial and emotional stability. “There is nothing more meaningful I would want to do with my education and the talents that my family helped me develop,” she says.

‘Let Our Family Help Your Family’

An increasingly important and highly specialized area of the law, elder law incorporates a wide range of practice areas, including Medicaid planning,



Managing Attorney Lisa Dillman

long-term care planning, foundational estate planning, guardianships, veterans’ benefits planning and more, explains Bryan Moore, Dillman Law Group’s chief operating officer and Dillman’s husband. The firm also provides a full range of estate planning services and creates comprehensive plans designed to help families avoid the Indiana probate process.

“Our clients love Lisa because she makes them feel comfortable as she guides them and their families through difficult times,” Moore says. “And they walk out of here with a lot of knowledge, because she makes everything so understandable. She also brings her years of trial advocacy to bear when she has to fight for her client families – and I think this is something extremely unique in an elder lawyer – she makes them feel

safe. At Dillman Law Group, we like to say, ‘Let our family help your family.’”

According to Moore, many people don’t realize they don’t have to spend down all their money before Medicaid will start to pay for care. “With just a little bit of forethought and preplanning, you can save yourself a lot of money and a lot of grief,” he says. “Thanks to the Spousal Impoverishment Law, if one spouse goes into a nursing home, the other spouse will not go broke paying for their care.”

For those facing a Medicaid crisis, Moore says the firm understands the laws and can work to get families eligible for Medicaid assistance as quickly as possible. A Medicaid crisis, he explains, is a situation where an individual has already entered a nursing home, or is about to be admitted to one, and has been informed he or she has too many assets to qualify for Medicaid assistance.

Like his wife, Moore has experienced the benefits of elder law planning firsthand. “My father has Parkinson’s,” he says, “and Lisa is helping my parents plan for his care costs. My mother is scared and nervous about the future, and we are trying to let her concentrate on him and not on watching the bank accounts.”

On a daily basis, Dillman sees families who know they want to “protect their assets” but aren’t quite sure they know exactly from what or from whom they are protecting them. “I feel for my clients when I see the fear and uncertainty in their faces when it comes to the unknown of the long-term care system,” she says. “I think my job is more about empowering them – showing them that they have planning options and care choices and getting them to believe that the future they worked so hard to achieve can still be as bright as they had hoped.”

