

What is Elder Law?

Elder law is defined by the client to be served, as opposed to technical legal distinctions. In other words, lawyers who practice elder law may have varied responsibilities, but their specific clientele will predominantly consist of seniors.

Elder law attorneys focus on the legal needs of the elderly, and work with a variety of legal tools and techniques to meet the goals and objectives of the older client.

The elder law practitioner handles general estate planning issues, with the additional responsibility of counseling clients about planning for incapacity with alternative decision-making documents. Elder law attorneys also assist their clients in planning for possible long-term care needs, including nursing home care. Locating the appropriate type of care, coordinating private and public resources to finance the cost of care, and working to ensure the client's right to quality care -- these obligations are all part of the elder law practice.

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