

Elder Abuse Warning Signs

Earlier this year, famed actor and comedian Mickey Rooney testified before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging. Tearfully and forcefully, the 90 year old actor described years of abuse and exploitation of his wife and him at the hands of his stepson. "For years, I suffered silently, unable to muster the courage to seek the help I knew I needed," said Rooney. This elder person of fame and notoriety, in his words, "felt helpless."

If it can happen to Mickey Rooney, it can happen to anyone and as baby boomers reach elder years, the potential for such cases goes up.

It is imperative that we "SPEAK UP" for seniors! The acronym created and copyrighted by ElderServe Inc., of Louisville, Ky, (and used with permission) speaks to the warning signs of elder abuse:

Sudden changes in behavior or finances

Physical injuries, dehydration or malnourishment

Extrême withdrawal, depression or anxiety

Absence of basic care or necessities

Kept away from others

Unsanitary living conditions

Personal items missing

If you see warning signs of elder abuse, please call Georgia's Elder Abuse Hotlines: 1-888-774-0152. For national information about elder abuse, visit the National Center on Elder Abuse web site at www.ncea.aoa.gov

PROBATE COURT AND BABY BOOMER ISSUES

Tony Thompson, Probate Judge

New Software and Website

Our new **Candler County Probate Court Information System (PCIS)** is up and running with computers and software that we were able to procure at no cost to the county (through the Administrative Office of Courts-Ga.).

This software allows us to better facilitate Guardianships and Conservatorships of minors and adults. The calendar feature helps us send out timely reminders of the due dates for annual reports.

Handbooks and Videos are available at our website www.gaprobate.org "Find your County" takes you to Candler County Probate information.

Guardianships and POA (Power of Attorney)

In the event of incapacity, children/spouses are often faced with a dilemma. Without a power of attorney, there is no one to speak for the person. A guardianship may be the only recourse. Establishing a guardianship for an incapacitated adult is a lengthy legal maneuver.

- a petition must be filed
- an attorney is most able to file such petitions
- a physician's evaluation is required
- a court hearing is required
- physician's testimony must support the petition
- bonding may be required
- all children must be noticed

In many instances this type of dilemma can be avoided with a simple power of attorney.

A Power of Attorney expires at the death of the authorizing person.

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- -a petition must be filed
- -an attorney is most able to file such petitions
- -a physician's evaluation is required
- -a court hearing is required
- -physician's testimony must support the petition
- -bonding will likely be required
- -all children must be noticed

In many instances this type of dilemma can be avoided with a simple power of attorney.

*A Power of Attorney expires at the death of the authorizing person.

Consult one of our local attorneys to prepare these vital documents for you:

Power of Attorney, Living Will or Advance Directive for Health Care, and a Last Will and Testament

- Kendall Gross 685-4619
- Gabe Cliett 685-3093
- Brent Carter/Justin Franklin 685-5500
- Bobby Jones/Butch Smith 685-5763
- Danny Olliff 685-6850
- Callaway/Neville/Brinson 912-739-2533