



Common Elder Law Terms and Acronyms

AI – Artificial intelligence - computer software or systems built to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence.

Assets – sometimes describe as Resources – In an elder law context this usually refers to items a person owns. Real estate, belongings, vehicles, bank accounts, etc.

Community Medicaid – In an elder law context, individuals usually qualify for this benefit under the Frail Elder Waiver (FEW). This program has income and asset limits.

Conservatorship – The court process that allows someone to make financial decisions for an individual when they lack capacity to make those decisions.

Durable Power of Attorney (POA or DPOA) – Legal document that allows someone to make financial decisions on behalf of the person signing the document. The term ‘durable’ means that it remains in effect even when the principal loses capacity.

Guardianship – The court process that allows someone to make living and medical decision on your behalf when you are unable to do so.

Health Care Proxy (HCP) – Legal document that allows someone to make living and medical decision on behalf of someone when they are unable to do so themselves.

Income - Funds that come to an individual on a regular basis.

Long-Term Care (LTC) – In an elder law context this usually refers to Medicaid benefits paid to an individual in a facility.

MassHealth (MH) – The state Medicaid agency and program in Massachusetts.

Medicare – The federal insurance program for individuals with a disability and individuals over 65.

Program for All-inclusive Care – PACE – the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. It is a Medicare and Medicaid-coordinated healthcare program that provides comprehensive medical and social services to help frail older adults live safely in their own communities instead of a nursing home.

Request For Information – RFI – Correspondence sent by MassHealth in the application or renewal process requesting additional information.

Will – Legal document that appoints a Person Representative of an individual's estate and distributes their assets after death.