



Upcoming Events

Caring for Someone with Dementia

Bloomfield Township Senior Center
4315 Andover Road, Bloomfield Twp., MI 48302
Thursdays, May 18, 25 & June 1, 8, 15, 22
10:00 a.m. – noon

The CCC program is designed to increase the knowledge, skills, and outlook of a spouse, adult child, relative or significant other caring for someone with memory loss or dementia at home. This program is supported by the MDHHS/Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA), the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, and the Alzheimer's Association – Greater Michigan Chapter. To register, or for more information about the CCC training program, as well as on-site respite care, call the Area Agency on Aging 1-B at (800) 852-7795, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more event listings go to <http://oaklandcounty115.com/events/>

Behavior is Communication with Dr. Sally Burton- Hoyle

The Arc Livingston
2980 Dorr Rd Brighton, MI 48116
Friday, May 5, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

All behavior is communication. We know that children who exhibit unacceptable behavior do so for a specific reason. This workshop will help you determine what they are saying with their behavior and how to substitute a more acceptable way to communicate that message.

The Arc of Livingston is pleased to offer this free training, in cooperation with Michigan Alliance for Families.

[Get more information](#)

[Register Now](#)

THE CASE FOR FAIR HOUSING 2017 Fair Housing Trends Report

The [report](#) by the National Fair Housing Alliance finds that of the 28,181 complaints of housing discrimination documented in 2016, 55 percent were based on disability—more than double the rate of those based on race, familial status, sex or any other protected class. Many apartments — even newly constructed ones — do not meet accessibility requirements and landlords have been known to refuse reasonable accommodations or modifications.

The 2017 Report makes the case for why fair housing is important.

[Click Here to Read the Report](#)

Suicide prevention resources are available in Oakland County

In 2014, 168 people committed suicide in Oakland County.

There are many local resources available that deal with suicide prevention including the [Oakland County Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force](#) and [Common Ground](#).

[Click Here for Additional Information & Resources](#)

Supreme Court Clarifies FAPE Standard

The United States Supreme Court issued a big decision on March 22nd. The high court clarified what FAPE means and how courts should apply the FAPE requirement. Although this opinion clarifies how courts should apply the FAPE standard, the court's decision does not overrule the seminal Rowley decision. Instead, it clarifies Rowley and explains how courts have not been correctly interpreting the decision.

The new gold standard for FAPE is: to meet its obligations under IDEA, a SD must offer an IEP reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress in light of the child's circumstances. The court described this standard is a fact-intensive exercise. The question is what is reasonable not what is ideal.

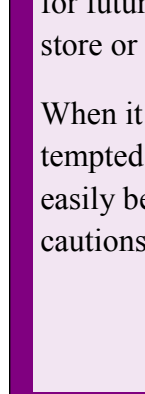
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Community mental health groups worry about privatization

Community mental health groups in Michigan fear that their funding and management could be transferred to private insurers under a budget proposal that emerged in the past week. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services' budget plan suggests it would align with Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal last year to eventually move \$2.5 billion of Community Mental Health Medicaid money and service management to private insurers in the state's Medicaid Health Plans.

Kevin Fischer, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Michigan, and other mental health leaders have voiced their concerns about having the health plans in charge. "I think it's incredibly important that you hear from us and continue to hear from us how important it is that our public mental health system remains public in Michigan," Fischer said. "We want to make sure that we continue to provide the best quality of public mental health services in the state."

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How Elder Law Attorneys Help American Families Navigate the Long-Term Care Crisis

Three stories of how elder law attorneys assisted families in making important long-term care decisions.

- [Elder Law Attorney Helps Family Navigate Complicated and Confusing Medicaid Regulations](#)
- [What Happens When I Can No Longer Provide the Care My Mother Needs at Home?](#)
- [Caught Up in a Maze of Regulation, Paper Work, and Red Tape](#)

6 Easy Ways To Get Rid Of Unused Medication

A new report found that about one-third of Americans haven't cleaned out their medicine cabinets in a year or more; and nearly a fifth (19 percent) haven't done so in three years. Those leftover pills are far from harmless.

Taking a drug not intended for you (or one taken by your child accidentally) could mean a trip to the emergency room—and can even prove deadly. Of particular concern are leftover opioids—narcotic painkillers such as Oxycontin, Percocet, and Vicodin.

A survey last June published in JAMA Internal Medicine suggests that there are a lot of opioids in people's medicine cabinets: 60 percent of respondents who had been recently prescribed an opioid reported holding on to the drugs for future use. Almost half said that they weren't aware of how to properly store or dispose of opioids.

When it comes time to clean out the cabinet or drawer, you might be tempted to just toss pills or other drugs into the trash. But because pills can easily be fished out of the garbage by a kid, you'll want to take safer precautions instead:

[Click Here for Full Article](#)

Additional Articles from Elder Law Answers

U.S. Supreme Court Rules That IDEA Requires More Than "Some" Educational Benefit

Parents of students with disabilities may be rethinking their child's educational plan after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the case of a child with autism and attention deficit disorder whose parents took him out of public school.

At issue in the case was the level of educational benefit that public schools must provide to students under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Act guarantees children with disabilities a "free appropriate public education," but the level of progress a student must make in order for the education to be called "appropriate" has been unclear, leading to school districts across the country interpreting the meaning differently.

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Beneficiary Designations Can Cause Problems for Children With Special Needs

Private retirement savings plans, like IRAs and 401(k)s, have become the main way for American families to save for retirement. But parents of children with special needs need to be vigilant when signing up for a retirement plan or company life insurance program.

This ability to name a class of beneficiaries often leads to trouble when a member of the particular class has special needs. Often the best option for families who want to leave a share of a retirement account to a person with special needs is to create a special needs trust and name it as a designated beneficiary. If properly drafted, the special needs trust can receive the retirement funds without negative income tax implications, and the funds will assist the person with special needs without compromising his benefits.

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High Court Says Girl with Special Needs Can Sue Over School's Refusal to Allow Service Dog

The Michigan case revolved around whether the family of Ehlena Fry could seek damages under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) without first going through the process under another law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Lower courts had ruled that the family first had to go through IDEA's appeals process, but the U.S. Supreme Court saw things differently. The justices ruled that the family did not have to seek a solution under IDEA because the focus of their case was not Ehlena's education.

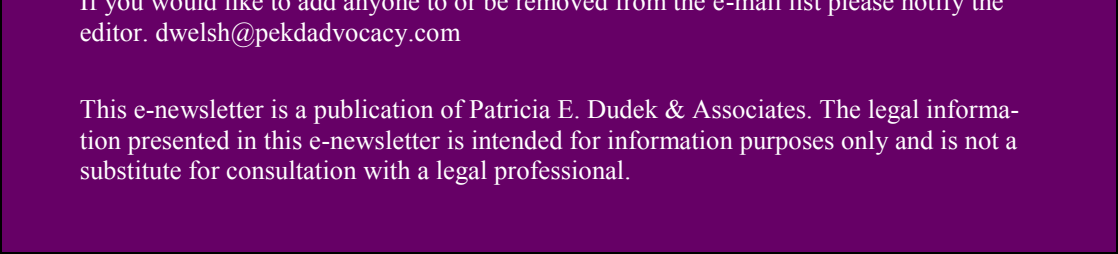
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New Comic Book Supports Special Needs Siblings

The challenges of being a child with special needs, or the parent of one, are fairly well known and documented. Less talked about and often ignored is the experience of being the sibling of someone with special needs. The role can bring with it a confusion of emotions, including frustration, anger, pride, shame, competitiveness, protectiveness, and a sense of having been abandoned in favor of someone with seemingly greater needs. All of these feelings are explored and dealt with in a new comic book, "Adventures From My World," conceived and written by a New Jersey teenager named Julie Averbach.

The 20-page comic book presents six illustrated stories of children confronting the challenges of having a sibling with special needs – in all cases a sibling who apparently has autism or developmental difficulties.

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