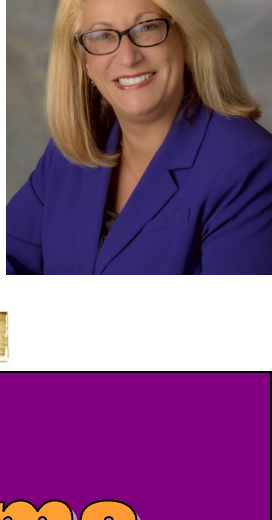


Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates

Passionate Advice and Advocacy for all Stages of Life

November 2017



Internet Scams

Lately, I have been reading about all the scams that are out and about. It is hard to keep up with them all. Some of the most common ones can be found in the following article: [Top Internet Scams: A - Z List](#).

Also, the IRS does not make collection calls, they will communicate in writing.

If you have encountered other scams or lists of them, please share I want to keep a list.

And for those of you that have interaction with SSA please read: [Is that Phone Call From Us?](#)

The Takeover

Seniors citizens are losing their assets and their autonomy to a hidden system. The following article is a terrifying real-life account of how a couple was legally stripped of their rights and their possessions and kept from their family.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/10/09/how-the-elderly-lose-their-rights/amp>

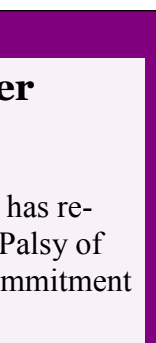
Medicare Hospital Outpatient & Observation Status Toolkit

With generous support from the [John A. Hartford Foundation](#), the Center for Medicare Advocacy has compiled a Toolkit for patients who find themselves stuck in the ongoing trap of "outpatient" Observation Status. Patients may find themselves in the hospital, receiving medical services, tests, and treatment, sometimes for many days, but learn they are considered *outpatients*, in Observation Status, **not** admitted *inpatients*. This is understandably confusing for patients and families – and difficult for hospitals, hospital physicians and personnel.

The information in the Toolkit can help beneficiaries, families, advocates and providers understand and respond to an “outpatient” Observation Status designation.

<http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/medicare-hospital-outpatient-observation-status-toolkit/>

Observation status continues to harm Medicare beneficiaries and their families. The Toolkit includes selected beneficiary stories, but to continue to fight this policy they need more. There is a link under the toolkit to provide the Center for Medicare Advocacy your story.



Investigators Find Elder Abuse in Nursing Homes is Prevalent and Underreported

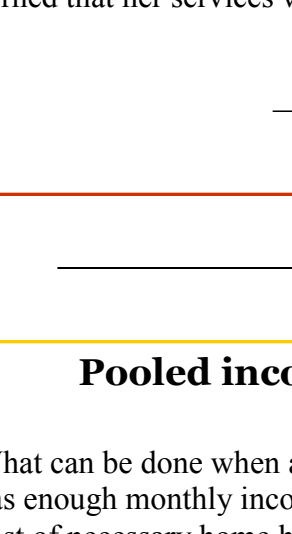
We are grateful to our friends at Gilfix & La Poll Associates LLP for giving us permission to share this article with you.

A recent federal investigation revealed that more than 25 percent of serious cases involving the abuse of nursing home residents were not reported to law enforcement agencies. In addition, nursing homes failed to provide necessary medical care in incidents of physical abuse and sexual assault.

—> [Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Mark R. Lezotte Awarded Richard L. Beer Volunteer Award

Mark Lezotte, a health care attorney for Detroit-based Butzel Long, has received the Richard L. Beer Volunteer Award from United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Detroit (UCP/Detroit). Lezotte was honored for his commitment to the UCP/Detroit and disability community.



Lezotte has served the UCP in numerous roles including UCP chair of national public policy committee, meeting with congressional leaders, consulting with advocates, and completing 11 years of service on the UCP national board of trustees. Along with his experience serving UCP, Lezotte has been involved in various bar and professional organizations, and is experienced in corporate, healthcare, and tax organization matters including corporate and nonprofit governance, business transactions, tax-exempt issues, and hospital-physician ventures.

—> [Click Here for the Article](#)

She needs 24-hour nursing. Then she was told it would end

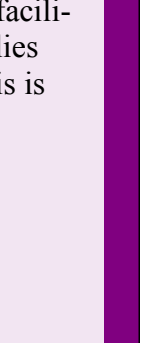
Bossier City Resident Deshae Lott recently was told life-saving services for her disability would stop. So she fought it.

Under a doctor’s directive, Deshae requires 24-hour daily care from skilled nurses who can handle her medical needs, which include administering a minimum of four to six breathing treatments, operating coughing and lung suctioning machines at least six times daily, and doling out four to five different medications over every 24 hours.

Until recently, the majority of her care was provided by licensed practical nurses through a state-licensed home health agency and the state-funded New Opportunities Waiver program.

But in late August, Lott and her husband, Jeff Sadow, received a formal discharge letter in which the agency said it no longer could meet her needs. The couple spent several desperate weeks searching for other options, with Lott concerned that her services would stop and that she would die.

—> [Click Here for the Full Article](#)



Pooled income trusts can help with the bills

What can be done when a disabled elderly or nonelderly person finds he or she has enough monthly income to cover all personal living expenses except for the cost of necessary home healthcare?

People in that position might want to consider participating in a pooled income trust, which allows them to receive Medicaid health services but continue to cover their own nonhealth expenses with their own income.

—> [Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Will Trump’s Justice Department Pay Attention to Disability Rights?

Many of the schools in the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNET), a separate state-wide network of schools for students with disabilities and behavioral problems, which serve approximately 5,000 students, lack playgrounds, art classes, and physical education programs. The current graduation rate for the students is unclear, but a 2009 report found that only 10 percent of students graduated with a regular diploma within five years. One problem is that many of the schools don’t offer all the classes required to graduate.

Conditions were so bad at the GNET schools that the Department of Justice under the Obama administration conducted an investigation in 2015 and found they violated the Americans with Disabilities Act—a 1990 law that guarantees people with disabilities equal access to education. The DOJ sued the state of Georgia, asking for the courts to desegregate students in the GNETS program. That case has stalled in the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Georgia over the question of whether the department even has the standing to sue at all. It’s one of several lawsuits filed under the Obama administration that disability rights advocates are watching closely to see how the new administration will handle such matters, and it could prompt other states to reevaluate whether they’re illegally separating students with disabilities from their peers.

—> [Click Here for the Full Article](#)



Who's Guarding Against The Guardians?

Court-approved guardians—strangers swooping in and taking over the lives of elderly people who are helpless to stop them. We’ll dig in on who, why and how.

It’s an epic scandal targeting the elderly. For profit guardians—strangers—knocking on the doors of our most vulnerable people and taking total control of their finances and lives. Moving them out of their homes into facilities, all at the expense of people who are helpless to stop them. Families think they’ve been kidnapped or gone missing And in some cases, this is perfectly legal.

—> [Click Here to Access the On Point radio show & additional related documents & extras.](#)

Homestead Property Tax Credit

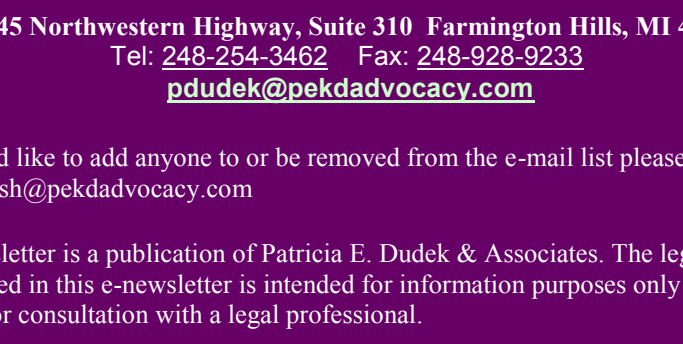
For many, living in Michigan is a dream come true. It has the perfect mix of recreation and industry, you get a beautiful blend of all four seasons, and wherever you are you are never far from a beautiful freshwater coastline. However, for many low income households, simply paying property taxes to live here can become an overwhelming financial burden. It is for this reason that the State of Michigan has implemented the Homestead Property Tax Credit for qualifying homeowners and renters.

In the state of Michigan, a homestead is considered to be the place where you have your permanent home, which means you can only claim one homestead at a time. Cottages, second homes, and college dorms are not qualifying homes under the Homestead Property Tax Credit.

There are several qualifications that determine if you are eligible to claim a property tax credit. You must meet all of the requirements in order to qualify.

1. Your home must be in Michigan.
2. You must be a resident of Michigan for at least six months during the year you are claiming a credit.
3. You must own or pay rent for a property you occupy.
4. Your home must be property on which property taxes were levied.
5. If you own your home, your home’s taxable value cannot exceed \$135,000.
6. Your total household resources must be no more than \$50,000. For more information about what is and is not included in your total household resources, you can visit the State of Michigan’s website and review the [Checklist for Determining Total Household Resources](#).

—> [Click Here for the Full Article](#)



For more news and information about Patricia and Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates please visit us online.

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