

Catching the Curveballs of Life



By Margaret Waage

Photo by Margaret Waage Photography

The Nelson Elder Care Law firm provides several areas of elder law practice with offices in Woodstock and Marietta. Elder law is most often referred to as estate planning. There are differences, however, between elder law and estate planning. Elder law concentrates on preserving assets during your lifetime and estate planning puts forth a defined legal plan for what happens to your assets after you pass. Elder law is available to everyone of all ages.

Nelson Elder Care Law first opened in Woodstock, GA, in 2014. Attorneys Cindy Nelson and her son, Joshua Nelson, provide several areas of elder law practice as well as providing the community with educational content through presentations and seminars. Their mission is to inform the public that estate planning is essentially a gift that you give yourself and your family. Without planning, families run the risk of losing assets to astronomical medical care costs, nursing home costs, and the lengthy probate process.

Additionally, Nelson Elder Care Law offers free initial consultations in Conservatorship, Medicaid Crisis Planning, Asset Protection Planning, Probate, Special Needs Trusts, and general Estate Planning that includes Power of Attorney. The purpose of the review is to understand what each client needs and to go over in detail the specific legal documents everyone needs and why.

Cindy moved to Atlanta in the early 90s as a single parent and never imagined herself becoming a lawyer. Josh, on the other hand, always wanted to be a lawyer. When Josh was scheduled to take the entrance LSAT exam, Cindy challenged him that she could beat his score to encourage him to study for the test.

Both Cindy and Josh did well on the test, with Cindy scoring one point more than Josh. They took the test for a second time after Josh wanted a do-over. Cindy's scores resulted in several full scholarship offers to law school. Southern Illinois University called to Cindy because of the proximity to her family living nearby.

Cindy gravitated toward elder law after volunteering at an elder law clinic while attending law school. Other "hands-on" skills Cindy felt were instrumental in supporting academic studies came from working within area agencies on aging, the Cobb County Probate Judge, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman office in Georgia which represents nursing home patient rights.

"Many of us spend our whole life saving, planning for our golden years only to become ill," Cindy said. "People wind up spending everything on care." Realizing estate planning can protect savings, Cindy solidified her purpose to concentrate on elder law and to help families protect their hard-earned assets. Cindy opened the firm in 2014 and it continues to grow today with two locations.

The philosophy behind the organization is to help families create an estate plan. "We focus on our clients and our client services and strive to treat clients like they're a member of our family that we love. When people walk through our doors, I want them to feel that love because they're usually going through a difficult time or they're contemplating difficult decisions," Cindy said.

During COVID, the Nelson Elder Care Law team reached out to their thousands of clients to ask if they needed anything. For clients in nursing homes during COVID who couldn't see family was certainly an isolating experience. "Making calls to check up on people is the type of thing we did because it was the right thing to do," Cindy said.

A message to the community:

Many people don't understand Elder Law or feel it doesn't apply to them. Elder law applies to people of all ages. There's a risk every husband-and-wife face when a curveball hits, such as an accident or sudden death. One spouse may not be able to access bank or 401K accounts, health records, medical insurance, or be able to sell a house if need be. Bills can't be canceled if they're only in one person's name. People don't know what the law is and what the ramifications are that can greatly impact them.

Groups that are near and dear to our hearts are caregivers. We frequently see busy families raising children and taking care of aging parents simultaneously and are often referred to as the 'Sandwich Generation' because of the pull in two different directions. The growing number of the senior population indicates more education on estate planning is needed so people can protect themselves and their families from potential financial loss from medical care, nursing home costs, etc.

We encourage everyone to follow us on our social media pages and sign up for our newsletter! We post on upcoming educational events and share content from our 'Community Connections' and 'Live With A Lawyer' YouTube video series. Topics include the Horrors of Probate, Trusts & Wills, Medicaid Planning, Veteran Benefits, and more.

DON'T RISK THE SECURITY OF YOUR LOVED ONES.



- ☑ Does someone have legal authority to make financial and medical decisions for you if you can't?
- ☑ Are you concerned about running out of money?
- ☑ Have you protected your savings from increased healthcare costs?
- ☑ Did you know that a will from another state is not valid in Georgia?



Call 470-377-0661 today for a complimentary consultation.

Choose from two convenient locations to serve you in Marietta and Woodstock.

NelsonElderCareLaw.com