

Seniors and the Law

Law is important to us at every stage in our lives. When we are born a Birth Certificate is the first legal document and likewise a Certificate of Death documents the end of our lives. For seniors, there are many important legal matters. For example, when are you eligible for Social Security, do you qualify for Medi-Cal, what is a Durable Power of Attorney, and should you have a Will or a Living Trust. Additionally, there are several important tax breaks available to seniors. For example, Homeowner or Renter Assistance, Property Tax Postponement, and a significant tax break if you downsize to a smaller home.



These and many other important legal issues affecting seniors are covered in an outstanding free publication sponsored by the State Bar of California, "Seniors and the Law, a Guide for Maturing Californians". You can receive your free copy by sending an email to barcomm@calbar.ca.gov or by regular mail to "Seniors and the Law", Office of Media and Information Services, The State Bar of California, 180 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94105-1639 or call (415) 538-2280.

If you are over 60 and need legal assistance, you can contact Senior Legal Hotline for a free telephone consultation. If you need additional help, Senior Legal Hotline can provide referrals to attorneys specializing in your area of need. Senior Legal Hotline can be reached at (916) 551-2140, or on the Internet at www.seniorlegalhotline.org.

If you want to contact an attorney directly, William Walker, (916) 535-7526, specializes in Estate Planning and Elder Law, while Lu T. Nguyen, (916) 791-2572, specializes in tax issues affecting seniors.

Craig Falk, President, Craig Cares, a home care company dedicated to helping you live independently at home (916) 782-7121).