

Caregivers need legal advice for Alzheimer's patients

You probably know someone who has Alzheimer's disease. You may even know someone who has died from Alzheimer's disease. If you are ever asked to be a caregiver or to assist a caregiver, you are going to need some basic legal information to make your caregiving effective. This article will discuss some legal considerations for the Alzheimer's patient and her family.



Stella Knight

Alzheimer's is one of the most common forms of dementia. Dementia is used to describe a progressive, degenerative mental dis-

ease. The deterioration usually includes loss of memory and related functions, eventually leaving the patient unable to care for herself. The Alzheimer's patient usually experiences a gradual onset of symptoms. Early warning signs may be: confusion, personality change, behavior change, and impaired judgment.

If you think a family member or friend may be suffering from Alzheimer's disease, get a diagnosis. We all forget things and many

times nutritional deficiencies and depression may cause Alzheimer's-like symptoms.

Once you have a diagnosis, the next step is to get advice. An Alzheimer's patient's mental capacity will gradually deteriorate. Eventually the patient will be unable to care for herself. It is important to seek advice early, when the patient is able to participate in the important decision-making process. Families will need to address financial concerns and legal concerns.

1. Financial Concerns. The family should review the assets and income of the patient; seek investment advice considering the future

costs and expenses associated with the illness; and, discuss management of assets during the patient's lifetime. It is extremely important to include the Alzheimer's patient in these important decisions and also to begin these discussions when the patient is still competent.

2. Legal Concerns. There are some basic legal documents that an Alzheimer's patient should discuss and execute when she is competent. If the family waits too long before discussing legal planning, many opportunities will be lost.

- A. Durable Power of Attorney.
- B. Health Care Power of Attorney.
- C. Will.

Most importantly, don't neglect yourself.

Stella Knight is an attorney practicing in Perquimans County, NC and Florida, with a major area of her law practice emphasizing estate planning, probate, trusts, wealth preservation, and elder law. The information contained in this column is of a general nature and does not constitute legal advice.

Lady Tigers split with EC

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The Lady Tigers split with Elizabeth City in Winfall Monday.

After putting away the Lady Jackets 2-0 (15-10, 15-11) in the first match, the homestanders lost the second 2-1 (15-8, 15-17, 11-15).

Power serves by Kelsey Copeland, Candace Nixon and Kaela Lassiter marked the first match. Copeland put over five straight in game one, while Nixon struck for four straight. In game two, Lester served the final six.

Copeland scored 10; Lassiter, seven; Nixon, six; Alyson Rose, four; Allison Benton, two; and Heather Perry, one. Perry had two kills.

Perry's hard serve put the Lady Tigers up 5-1 in game one of match two. Copeland's deceptively tough serve counted for points six through 14.

But personnel changes in game two seemed to put the home team on its heels. Elizabeth City went up 9-1 before Nixon made it 9-7 with her hard, flat serve. Perry's six in a row to put Perquimans up 14-12 and only one point away from match point was moot after the Lady Jackets scored five of the next six points to take the game 17-15 and tie the match at 1-1.

Even with the starters back on the court for game three, the team never got back in sync. Perry served six straight to make it 6-2, but too many balls dropped to take advantage of the Tigers' serves.

Perry finished with 17 points; Copeland, nine; Nixon, seven; Rose and Benton, three each; and Lassiter and Faith Everett, one apiece. Perry and Copeland had kills.

ALS softball tourney Friday

The annual Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Softball Tournament is scheduled for Sept. 27-29 at the Perquimans County Softball Fields in Winfall. Games will begin Friday at 7 p.m. and continue Saturday morning at 9. The championship game is set for Sunday afternoon.

Twelve teams have already signed up to play, and the tournament has a 15-team limit. The entry fee is \$250.

The tournament will fea-

ture a game between a team from WTKR channel 3 and members of the Hunter family on Saturday at 1.

A homerun derby for men and women, silent auction, raffles, food including home-baked goodies, ALS softball sportswear and the presentation of the Catfish Cup are all on tap for the weekend.

Co-chairs Joan Hunter Rountree and Guy Webb are asking for donations to help fight ALS, the disease which took the life of Hall

of Fame pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter. Monetary support, volunteers to work during the tournament, auction items and home-baked goods would be appreciated.

Donations may be sent to Joan Rountree, 227 Carter Loop Road, Gatesville NC 27938 or Guy Webb, 2010 New Hope Road, Hertford, NC 27944. Call 357-0597 for information, to volunteer or to arrange to have donations for the auction or concessions stand picked up.

Teaching Fellows applications available

North Carolina Teaching Fellows applications are available on line for the 2002-03 North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship/Loan Program. The deadline for returning completed applications to John Wells, PCHS Counselor, is Oct. 31.

Each Teaching Fellow receives a \$26,000 scholarship loan from the state, payable in \$6,500 annual increments, from the state. The full loan is forgiven after the Fellow has completed four years of teaching in North Carolina public schools. In addition, the Fellow takes part in unique academic and summer enrichment programs during their college career.

For additional information regarding the Teaching Fellows Program, contact Brenda Dail, Perquimans County Schools, at 426-5741.

BEARY NICE PROJECT



As a collaborative effort of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Project and the Vocational Education Program, students from Perquimans County High School participated in an embroidery design class. The students made stuffed animals for the children at the 4-H / Perquimans Central School Day Care Program and presented the stuffed animals to the students. Janet Cartwright was the class instructor.

Stone graduates from Pitt

Jaime June Stone of Hertford graduated from Pitt Community College, Greenville during the summer term. Stone earned associate degrees in both radiography and general occupational technology, and a diploma in radiation therapy.

Head Start Centers offer free lunch program

The Economic Improvement Council, Inc., sponsors the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded Child and Adult Care Food Program. The same meals will be available at no separate

charge to enrolled participants at Head Start Centers across the Albemarle, including Perquimans. In accordance with Federal law and USDA policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the

basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

For eligibility guidelines or to find out more about this program, call the area EIC office in Edenton at 482-4495.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 7, 2002 at 2:45 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room located at 128 N. Church Street to consider the following:

1. Text amendments to the Perquimans County Zoning Ordinance, Article XXII to clarify the designation of Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District.

The proposed amendment may be viewed at the Perquimans County Manager's Office at 128 N. Church St., Hertford, N.C.

Bobby C. Darden, Assistant County Manager

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