

**ELDER LAW**

Americans are living longer than ever and are facing legal and financial concerns rarely encountered by those of earlier generations. Our Elder Law attorneys focus exclusively on the needs of seniors and those who care for them. With attorneys certified as both Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law specialists by the Ohio State Bar Association and as Certified Elder Law Attorneys (CELA) by the National Elder Law Foundation and the Ohio Bar Association, we are staffed to counsel our clients through every phase of planning for the issues faced by seniors.

For seniors and their families, the aging process can present a number of challenges—from medical crises to serious financial concerns. Critchfield's lawyers are here to help our clients achieve peace of mind through thoughtful planning for today and tomorrow by providing counsel on asset protection, Medicaid planning, Veterans benefits (such as Aid and Attendance), conservatorships and guardianships, as well as general estate planning, trusts, and probate.

Unfortunately, the capacity of a senior citizen who may be in early stages of dementia, suffering the effects of a stroke, or Alzheimer's Disease may raise legal concerns. When such circumstances arise, Critchfield prepares essential documents, including powers of attorney or health care directives such as a health care power of attorney or living will. If necessary, we also assist with obtaining a conservatorship or guardianship.

We also address the planning needs of adult children with disabilities, often through the creation of special needs trusts. We advise clients of the planning necessary to set aside assets for the disabled individual so the individual can still obtain Medicaid, Social Security Income, or Social Security Disability benefits.

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