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Legal Terms – Medicaid

A:

Activities of Daily Living (ADL's): The basic things you do every day to take care of yourself, like getting clean (bathing or showering), getting dressed, eating, using the bathroom, and moving around (getting out of bed or walking)

Assets: The things you own that have monetary value

Assisted Living Facility: A facility that offers help for people who need assistance with daily care, but do not require the level of care that a skilled nursing home provides.

C:

Community Spouse: The spouse that is not applying for Medicaid and continues to live independently.

D:

Division of Assets: Division of assets refers to the policy that allows a community spouse to retain a portion of the couple's assets when the institutionalized spouse becomes eligible for Medicaid coverage.

E:

Estate Recovery: Medicaid's ability to recover the cost of Medicaid benefits paid on your behalf.

I:

Institutionalized Spouse: The spouse that is applying for Medicaid and is entering into a skilled nursing facility.

Irrevocable Trust: A legal arrangement in which you permanently transfer assets into a trust that cannot be changed or revoked.

L:

Look-Back Period: In the Medicaid application process, it is the 5-year period prior to you submitting your Medicaid application for nursing home care. Any gift or property sold for less than fair market value during this period may delay when you begin to receive Medicaid assistance.

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Legal Terms – Medicaid

M:

Medicaid: A partnership program between the federal government and the state to assist with the high cost of medical services for people who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Medicare: Government health insurance for people 65 years or older (or younger, if disabled).

P:

Personal Care Agreement/Contract: A written agreement where you pay a family member or friend to provide care for you at home.

S:

Single Premium Immediate Annuity (“SPIA”): A financial contract between a person and an insurance company that can offer a stream of income in exchange for a single lump-sum payment.

Skilled Nursing Facility: An inpatient facility that provides medically necessary services 24 hours a day.

Spend Down: In the Medicaid application, the amount of money that exceeds the eligibility asset limit determined by Medicaid that must be spent to establish eligibility.

Spousal Allotment: In the Medicaid application, the amount of income from the institutionalized spouse that can be given to the community spouse to increase their gross income to the state’s designated amount.

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