

# *LK Alert*

## **Littman Krooks LLP**

Elder Law and Medicaid

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### **Drastic Changes to New York's Medicaid Program On the Horizon**

It is anticipated that on July 1, a New York State administrative directive will become effective that will impose new punitive restrictions on the ability of seniors to make charitable donations or gifts to family members.

One of the measures of the program will deny at-home-care to recipients who, during the last three years, donated gifts to a religious organization or charity, or gave gifts to family members. Anyone with a disability or considerable health need will now be penalized if they gift even a small amount of money. The new laws will prevent them from receiving crucial home-care services. The policy will force couples to impoverish themselves or seek divorces in order to maintain the income necessary to receive home-care services.

**What does this mean for your clients?** If they have considered protecting their assets for themselves and their families, they should contact a qualified elder law attorney immediately. If your clients are interested in protecting their homes and other assets, the time to act is rapidly diminishing. There is only a brief "window of time" left to implement long term care planning under the existing Medicaid laws. Once this window closes, they will be subject to the new harsher Medicaid laws.

We are available to accommodate your clients who wish to take advantage of this opportunity. We have set up extra office hours to allow your clients to meet with us before this deadline passes.

*Urge your clients to act today. They will appreciate your concern.*

**Please contact us for additional information.**

You can reach us at 914.684.2100 or visit [www.elderlawnewyork.com](http://www.elderlawnewyork.com)

Littman Krooks LLP offers legal services in several areas of law, including Elder law, Asset Protection, Special Needs Planning, Medicaid, Health Care, Guardianship, Estate and Tax planning, Public Benefits, Estate Administration/Probate, and Trusts and Estates. Our offices are located in Midtown Manhattan at 655 Third Avenue, and in White Plains, New York at 81 Main Street.

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