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What Were You Like When You Were Thirty?

By **Jerold E. Rothkoff, Esq.**

Recently, I met with a father and daughter at the father’s home. The father asked me to read some of his articles he recently had written from a list of questions obtained from an online company called Storyworth.

Storyworth is a service that collects your loved one’s favorite stories and memories and preserves them in a beautifully bound book. The way it works is that you can either pick your questions from a list of hundreds, let the program randomly choose, or come up with your own. Some questions include: What matters to you most in life? What’s one of your favorite trips? Has anyone ever

rescued you? What advice would you give your great-grandchild? Every week for a year, Storyworth emails the recipient the question, and all they have to do is respond to the email—no Boomer-boggling logins or forgotten passwords necessary—with their answer. Then Storyworth emails the

response to whoever has been set up as recipients.

I was reviewing the website when a question suddenly struck me: What Were You Like When You Were Thirty? That

question was quite meaningful to me for several reasons. I am now 54 years old. In 1998, at age 30, the year our identical twin daughters were born, I received my first taste of elder law. I had been married for two years, and my father died six months after we were married. I was at a crossroads in my early legal career. I was not satisfied with my career—I needed something more, but I did not know what “more” meant at the time. From a career perspective, “more” meant, in February 2000, I would found Rothkoff Law Group, and become

absorbed into the world of elder care law and never regret the leap I took.

What was I like? I was a much different person. Certainly, marriage, having five children, along with numerous pug dogs along the way has taught me, like anyone

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Jerry, then and now, with his twin daughters.

Resources for Your Use

Rothkoff Law Group strives to be a resource and would like to assist you in understanding the challenging issues seniors and their caregivers face on a daily basis. We hope the resources provided are useful to you.

We have the following resources that are available for download on our website, rothkofflaw.com/resources :



- 1) **Senior Guides** - Printed Senior Resource Guides are available for both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Guides contain local, state, and federal resources for seniors, updated and reprinted annually.
- 2) **VA Nuts and Bolts Guide** - Our VA Guide details the benefits available to our veterans, as well as the eligibility criteria and application process.
- 3) **Elder Care Box** - As you consider your legal, care, and financial options we hope these resources will provide you and your family guidance.
- 4) **Elder Law Quick Facts** - A handy quick reference guide to Medicare, Medicaid, and VA financial information.
- 5) **First Step Card** - Request referral cards that can be provided to seniors, the disabled, or their caregivers who may need our assistance now or in the future.
- 6) **Digital Brochure** - Download our interactive Digital Brochure to learn more about our services and how our team of professionals can assist you and your loved ones with elder care needs.
- 7) **2023 Create-a-Calendar** - Each month features artwork created by New Jersey and Pennsylvania senior care facilities' residents and staff.
- 8) **Rothkoff Law Activity Book** - Designed for cognitive thinking while having fun. Includes puzzles, word searches, and coloring pages.
- 9) **The Unintentional Advocate: My Journey as an Elder Care Attorney** - A 20-year reflection on advocating for seniors, written by Jerold E. Rothkoff, Esq.
- 10) **A Life Care Plan: Helping You Navigate the Aging Journey** - A book that explains (in layman's terms) what a Life Care Plan is, how it works, what is included, and who benefits from this integrated approach to elder law.

Thank You for Helping Rothkoff Law Group "Share the Love"

Rothkoff Law Group "Shared the Love" with seniors living in local long-term care communities last Valentine's Day. Local schools, families, and members of the community supported this initiative by creating handmade Valentine's cards for the team at Rothkoff Law Group to distribute. Thank you to all the school students and the community for helping to share the love with seniors in area long-term care communities.



Proposed Bill Addresses Financial Exploitation in Long-Term Care for NJ Residents

In February, a new bill, S-3606, was introduced in the New Jersey legislature to address continued problems in certain New Jersey nursing homes. The bill, co-sponsored by Senator Joseph F. Vitale (D—Middlesex) and Sen. Robert W. Singer (R—Ocean), will attempt to address issues related to financial exploitation in long-term care.

The bill prohibits the personnel of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities—owners, operators, managers, employees – “or other person who benefits financially from a long-term care facility” from managing “the affairs of a [nursing home resident] except pursuant to an order of the Superior Court appointing that person guardian of the principal.”

In addition, the bill seeks to curtail financial exploitation in long-term care admission process, such as nursing home admissions applications. Within four months of enactment, pursuant to the bill, a standardized admissions agreement is to be developed by the NJ Department of Health, and every facility will have to utilize that agreement without modifi-

cations. Any arbitration agreement must be a separate document, with a large-type disclosure that signing it is optional.

Also, facilities will be required to give a notice to the resident that says, in capital letters, “YOU HAVE THE OPTION TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY TO ASSIST WITH APPLYING FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE LONG-TERM CARE BENEFITS,” and the notice must provide specific disclosure of the risks of hiring a non-attorney application preparer. A non-attorney preparer must “disclose any financial relationship between the application assistance provider and any long-term care facility, including financial relationships with any parent companies or subsidiaries of the long-term care facility,” and must again advise the individual of their right to hire an attorney for advice.

The bill would also prohibit non-lawyer Medicaid advisors from charging fees and mandate a number of other disclosures.

If financial exploitation in long-term care is an important concern to you, please contact your NJ state legislator.

What Were You Like When You Were Thirty? *(Continued from front page)*

else, the importance of responsibility and family. I also hope I am a much more empathetic person than twenty-four years ago. Working with older adults and their families has taught me to be more compassionate than I thought possible. It also has helped to create a more profound sense of gratitude for my own life and loved ones.

Also, I have a greater sense of self-esteem and personal satisfaction from knowing the advocacy our Elder Care

Law office has provided enriches the lives of the people we help. Advocacy for seniors has the added benefit of working with people who have a lifetime of experiences and knowledge to share that broaden one’s perspective.

So, what were you like when you were thirty? Take a shot at answering this question and more. Your children, grandchildren, and future generations will be that much richer for it, and so will you.



THE ROTHKOFF QUARTERLY – Published for clients and friends of ROTHKOFF LAW GROUP

The success of our firm is a direct reflection of our clients and the referral sources who have supported us.

Therefore, we actively welcome your referrals as well as your input regarding the contents of this newsletter. We also welcome comments on the quality of legal services our offices provide.



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Rothkoff Law Happenings

We are very excited to announce the birth of Donna Daciuk's grandson, Ethan Howard Betts, born on March 3, 2023.



Congratulations to Jennifer Rhine on becoming a Positive Approach to Care® (PAC) Certified Independent Trainer. Jennifer's certification will help her continue to deliver the best for our clients with dementia and the families who work with Rothkoff Law Group on behalf of their loved ones.



Congratulations to Jerry Rothkoff and Bryan Adler for each being named an "Awesome Attorney" in the December 2022 issue of *South Jersey Magazine*.

All information presented in the Rothkoff Quarterly newsletter is general and does not constitute legal advice. Please do not act upon this information without consulting an attorney. Anyone facing a legal issue discussed in this publication is advised to seek legal advice from a competent professional.