



May 2003 Newsletter

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH . . .

“Genuine faith produces character and proven character is the basis of all true greatness.”— Churchill

2003

Speaking Schedule

Alzheimer's Support Group **May 5th**

Society of CPAs **May 27th**

Alzheimer's Association **June 28th**

Want to learn more about ALTCS & its requirements? Call 480/464.4968 and have Carol Aragon-Montgomery speak to your staff or residents at your next meeting.

DEMUTUALIZATION OF LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES

Some life insurance companies are opting to become stock companies rather than mutual companies. A stock life insurance company offers stock to its policyholders while a mutual company chooses to share its “profits” with its policyholders by paying annual dividends.

Two common life insurance companies chose to become stock companies within the past few years. You might be familiar with these companies: Prudential and MetLife.

When they became stock companies, these companies gave their policyholders an option to take shares of stock or receive a cash settlement

at the time of demutualization. While many people opted to have the cash sent to them to spend, others chose to have shares of stock with the life insurance companies.

This poses a new issue for ALTCS eligibility because now all ALTCS staff have to verify if a policyholder of a company that has chosen to demutualize, owns shares of stock with their respective company. If so, then ALTCS then has to verify the value of that stock. If the stock's value, in addition to the ALTCS applicant's other assets, exceed the current resource limit for ALTCS, the applicant will be denied.



The potential ALTCS member may then have to sell their stock to spend down to qualify. Depending on the potential member's situation, sometimes the shares of stock can be designated as a burial fund to allow it to be excluded from the eligibility determination (see Sept-Oct 2003 newsletter).

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VALLEY-WIDE SERVICE

www.altcsplanning.net

Because ALTCS has many guidelines and the process can be overwhelming for someone needing care, refer them to

Montgomery & Associates, Inc.

for a no-obligation free initial evaluation.

We can help them spend down, organize their assets, and sort through the ALTCS red tape to qualify as soon as possible.

480/464.4968

Our Current Staff Members . . .

Carol Aragon-Montgomery

—ALTCS/Medicaid Planning Consultant/co-owner

12 years experience (5 years with ALTCS, 4 years with elder law firm, 1 year private consultant, 2 years Montgomery & Associates, Inc. consultant)

Carol currently handles some free initial evaluations. She spends most of her time ensuring that the clients are meeting the ALTCS guidelines by guiding them throughout the spend down process, preparing all of the necessary paperwork, attending all ALTCS interviews, and advocating for the client's rights within the process.

George L. Montgomery

—ALTCS/Medicaid Planning Consultant/co-owner

11 years experience (10 years with ALTCS/AHCCCS, 1 year Montgomery and Associates, Inc. consultant)

George currently handles 90+% of the free initial evaluations. He assists Carol and the clients with the spend down process. He is also our information tech—handling our computers and software.



Catherina (pronounced "Catrina") Ybarra

—Secretary/Receptionist

2 ½ years experience (1 year experience with Montgomery & Associates, Inc., 1 ½ years personal experience dealing with ALTCS as daughter of an ALTCS member)

Catrina currently handles all incoming calls, all potential client calls, the scheduling of appointments, the setting up of speaking engagements, reviewing all incoming mail, and making sure that the client has a person to talk to when dealing with the multitude of issues that arise during the process.

Tracey N. Sywarungsymun

—Technical Specialist

3 ½ years experience with ALTCS; 3 mos. Montgomery & Associates, Inc. technical specialist

Tracey currently handles the review of information received by the client, filing of information in the file, double-checking the file to ensure no detail was missed, and the preparation of ALTCS forms for the interview. She is also assisting with the annual redetermination for clients we have already helped obtain ALTCS eligibility.

Summerrose Schmidt

—Assistant to all staff members

1/2 year experience with Montgomery and Associates, Inc.

Summerrose currently assists by ensuring that our verification and contact databases are current and accurate. She also sends out verification requests to verify income, resources, and medical insurance information for the client. She works alongside Tracey to obtain information for the client's annual redetermination.

DEMUTUALIZATION OF LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES continued . . .

If your patient or resident owns a life insurance policy with a company that has demutualized, please have them contact the demutualization department to verify if stock shares are owned or if they may be entitled to a cash disbursement.

For Prudential policyholders, please call: (800) 243-1701.

For MetLife policyholders, please call Mellon Investor Services: (800) 649-3593.

For daily stock quotes, go to:<http://finance.yahoo.com>. You will need the 3-letter ticker symbol to look up the stock values.

As always, if you have questions about this article or life insurance demutualization, please call us at 480/464.4968.

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