

NEWSLETTER

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PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE STARTS WITH WISE PLANNING

When you think about how many people want your time and attention, it's easy to get distracted from planning. There's your immediate family and all the "busy"ness that entails. Then there's your extended family—holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries. Then there's work and the price of gas and how on earth am I going to pay off that credit card early! Or what about those financial planners that want you to invest for your future or for that matter, your spouse who reminds you that you haven't yet started the kids' college funds. I know! I know!

The recent high school graduation of my two eldest children and the preparation to send them off to college this fall gets me thinking, but I'm running a business and taking classes to continue my education and running a parent group. I don't have time to think about me much less the future. If you're anything like me, I know that you are thinking, "I'll take care of

that tomorrow." What is your "that" that you are going to take care of? Is it getting your legal documents done while you're still competent to do so? Is it completing your estate planning so that your family will be taken care of if you're gone? Is it reading one more bedtime story to your child so they go to sleep with love in their hearts and pleasant thoughts in their head?

The challenge we have with the statement, "I'll take care of that tomorrow" is that it isn't a wise statement. One of the definitions of wise is "characterized by or showing such power; judicious or prudent." Planning cannot begin until we "wise" up and realize that we may not get a tomorrow to finish planning.

WISE. You and I can be characterized by power and show our wisdom by making great decisions.

STOP! Let's do some wise planning today. Tell your spouse you love and appreciate them.

Listen to your son's tales of the day. Read the story your daughter wrote this morning. Call your mom and dad and tell them you were thinking of them. And, set that appointment to get your estate planning done today. Don't wait. Tomorrow may never come.

Montgomery & Associates, Inc. employs a Certified Legal Document Preparer who can prepare your estate planning documents (powers of attorney, living trust, living will, beneficiary deed, etc.)



**MONTGOMERY
& Associates**

A Long Term Care Planning Firm



M&A Inc. Introduces Their New Voice Mail Line

We know that sometimes it frustrates folks to listen to our long-winded voice mail introduction and sometimes we are on the other line and cannot personally take your call. So, rather than leaving you no option, we have decided to create a Montgomery & Associates, Inc. voice mail line.

If you want to speak to a person, please continue to call **480/464.4968**. If you'd rather just call and leave a detailed voice mail message, please call our voice mail line **480/284.0222**. You can also text message to this line if that is more convenient! And as always, you can send us an e-mail, too.

If you are just calling to leave a voice mail message, please tell us your name, the client's name, and detailed information about why you are calling, along with your phone number, so we can be prepared to answer your questions.

**ALL CALLS RETURNED
WITHIN ONE BUSINESS DAY**

VOICE MAIL ONLY LINE!

480/284.0222

DID YOU KNOW?

You can help us help the environment by reducing the amount of paper that arrives in your mailbox from Montgomery & Associates by choosing our e-mail option. Send an e-mail to carol@altcsplanning.net to tell us that you want e-mail correspondence only!

Not only can you receive your correspondence via e-mail, but you are welcome to send your correspondence via e-mail to us, too.

Want to add your e-mail address to our e-mail database? Send us an e-mail with the words, "OPT-IN" in the Subject line.

NEED SOME EXTRA CASH?

ANYONE OUT THERE NEED EXTRA CASH?

ANYONE NEED \$300*?

People who file a 1040 form this year will be entitled to a \$300 per person stimulus payment for each person listed on the 1040 form. ONLY those people who take the time to file the 1040 form will receive the payment. It is our understanding that even if you don't need to file, but do, you will get the stimulus payment, too. How does \$300 extra sound to you?

ANYONE NEED \$25*?

People who file a AZ 140x form may be entitled to an excise tax refund from the State of Arizona. The amount of the refund is \$25 for a single person and \$50 for a couple.

ANYONE NEED \$502*?

Individuals age 65+, who are full-time residents of Arizona, who pay property tax, and have limited income, may qualify for **up to \$502** refund of their property tax. You must file an AZ 140PTC and

meet income qualifications to receive this refund.

ANYONE NEED \$168*?

SRP has a program that will reduce your monthly utility cost by \$14 if your income is less than the guidelines. (The income limit ranges from \$1277 for 1-person household to \$3452 for a 6-person household*). See the SRP website: <http://www.srpnet.com/prices/economy.aspx> or call (602) 236-8888 to find out how to enroll.

ANYONE NEED \$1156*?

Individuals who are age 65 or older or who are blind or disabled^ and receive total gross income less than

\$1170 per month may qualify for help from AHCCCS to pay for their Medicare premiums. Couples whose total combined gross income per month is less than \$1575 may qualify for this benefit, too.

ANYONE NEED \$5-\$250?

Montgomery & Associates pays a \$5 coffee gift card for referrals sent our way (even when they don't book an appointment!). We also offer a referral fee up to \$250 for every planning referral who becomes a planning client.

With gas prices going up almost every day and the cost of food following close behind, every dollar counts. Pick up the phone today to find out how you can add those extra dollars to your pocket.

As always, if you have questions about the information in this newsletter, please call us at 480/464.4968.

Visit us on the web!
www.altcsplanning.net



“Money is like manure; it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around encouraging young things to grow.”

—Thornton Wilder

from
The Matchmaker

ITEMS WITH ^EFFECTIVE 07/01/08

Individual Standards

\$1911.00—ALTCS Monthly Income Limit

\$2000.00—Resource Limit

\$867.00—QMB Income Limit

\$867.01—**\$1040.00**—SLMB Income Limit

\$1040.01—**\$1170.00**—QI-1 Income Limit

Community Spouse Standards

\$3822.00—ALTCS Monthly Income Limit*

\$22880.00—Initial Resource Limit

\$20880.00—Minimum Resource Allowance

\$104400.00—Maximum Resource Allowance

^\$1750.00—Monthly Spousal Need

^\$525.00—30% deduction from excess shelter expenses

\$314.00—Standard Utility Allowance

\$2610.00—Maximum Minimum Maintenance Needs Allowance

\$1167.00—QMB Income Limit for couples

\$1167.01—**\$1400.00**—SLMB Income Limit for couples

\$1400.01—**\$1575.00**—QI-1 Income Limit for couples

Other Standards

\$95.55—Personal Needs Allowance

\$1911.00—HCBS Personal Needs Allowance

\$210.00—Home Maintenance Allowance

\$96.40—Standard monthly Medicare Premium



With the right planning,
her lifestyle won't be
affected if her husband
needs nursing home
care. **Find Out How.**

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to give up my current health insurance to get on ALTCS?

No, you don't. ALTCS will bill Medicare and other health insurance benefits first before paying any of your medical bills. By using the ALTCS providers, the cost of your care under ALTCS is covered. If you choose to use the providers that you are familiar with (and who are not contracted with ALTCS), you will still be responsible for the unpaid portions of the bills. Additionally, some program contractors are not allowing the premium as a deduction from the room & board charge so keeping it may not be an option if the premium is greater than your personal needs allowance.

What the difference between your firm and the law firms who also do ALTCS/Medicaid Planning?

In short: EDUCATION! We do our best to educate you about the programs and the requirements. Although a law firm can tell you specifically what you can do, we leave it open to you to make the decisions that are right for your family by providing information about all of your options. Some times the law firms may pressure you into a specific plan. Without education, you may not understand how that plan will affect you in the long run.

Can just anyone out there be a caregiver for an ALTCS member?

No. In order to be a caregiver for an ALTCS member, the person must apply to become an employee of one of the personal care companies contracted with ALTCS program contractors. Generally speaking, the companies require a background check before the person is hired.

Are Veterans who served in the post-Korean war time (after the dates listed on the VA website) eligible for compensation and pension benefits?

The following time period, January 31, 1955, through August 5, 1964, is considered a qualifying period for Veterans who served during the post-Korean war time period. These Veterans may be potentially eligible for compensation or pension benefits if they meet the financial and medical requirements for those programs.

What is the maximum hours ALTCS will give my mom for in home care hours per week?

The program contractor's case manager is the one who will do an assessment to determine the number of hours of service. My clients' experiences have indicated that those that ask get what they receive. The program contractor will not pay for more than 40 hours per week. However, the final determination of service hours is based on availability of providers and that program contractor's criteria.

480/464.4968
www.altcsplanning.net





Montgomery & Associates, Inc. has been providing quality long term care planning services in the State of Arizona since 2001. Our planning focuses on Arizona's Medicaid Program, AHCCCS, its acute care, Medicare Cost-Sharing & ALTCS programs, the Veterans Administration programs that help pay for long term care, preparation of certain types of legal documents, mortgage debt reduction planning, and financial planning. We want you to know that you can count on us to be a valuable resource for these services.

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Let our umbrella of guidance shelter
 you from the long term care cost storm



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WELCOME to summer!

Please deliver to:
