



Dear Clients and Colleagues,
We hope you are doing well
and staying safe and healthy.



We are pleased to announce that **Andrea L. Claus** has just been elected to the **Board of Directors for the Arizona Humane Society. Congratulations Andrea!** You will be a great asset to the team. This is a true honor.

Bivens & Associates has long history of dedication to community service and outreach. We are proud of our attorneys' commitment to service and philanthropy. We look forward to continued partnership with the organizations and families we serve.

LAST CHANCE TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE LAW FIRM!

Voting closes July 31, 2020 for Ranking Arizona 2021 Rankings.

We would greatly appreciate your support by taking a minute to vote for Bivens & Associates, PLLC in the following categories:

Estate/Trusts Elder Law Law Firms



We were so blessed and humbled to rank #1 and #2 in these categories among all law firms in Arizona for 2020.

Click Here to VOTE: (or go to <https://azbigmedia.com/vote-ranking-arizona/#//>). Thank you for your support.

Ask the Attorney

Q: My 18-year old is heading off to college in the Fall. What documents should she have in place?

A: At the age of 18, your child is legally an adult in most states. This means you no longer have the right to make certain decisions or take certain actions on their behalf.

If your child has an event requiring healthcare, you won't be entitled to access their medical information under HIPAA rules. You are no longer necessarily entitled to make medical decisions. To address these issues, your child should have a general durable power of attorney, healthcare and mental healthcare power of attorney, HIPAA document, and Living Will. Having these documents in place is helpful as your child works towards becoming an independent adult.

If you have general estate planning questions, you can submit an inquiry at info@bivenslaw.com or call to schedule a consultation.



WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU, ESPECIALLY DURING COVID-19.

The last few months have turned our collective routines and world upside down in so many ways. What has not changed, however, is our commitment to serve our clients and community. Here are just a few ways we have adapted our practices to continue to serve you and those you care about.



- Extensive use of videoconference/phone meetings
- Estate plan and legal document signings by first class curbside service
- Court appearances by videoconference or phone
- Use of digital signature and online payment options

We have also sent care packages, cards, and home-sewn masks to those working in senior living, and clients. Let us know how we can help you!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We offer COMPLIMENTARY ESTATE PLANNING CONSULTATIONS. With increased COVID-19 concerns in Arizona, estate planning has never been more critical. Whether you are starting from scratch or would like a review of your current documents for peace of mind, call to schedule a meeting with one of our experienced attorneys today.

ALTCS

Arizona Long Term Care System

ALTCS provides valuable long-term care services (e.g., in-home care, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing) for individuals who meet medical, income, and asset criteria.

How does applying for ALTCS now during the COVID-19 pandemic affect my ALTCS application?

ALTCS is still processing applications. *We not only help families plan to preserve assets by qualifying for ALTCS benefits, our firm routinely serves as the "Authorized Representative" responsible for the application process itself which includes submission of all documentation to ALTCS which reduces error, time delay, and potential denials.*

ALTCS is conducting most medical assessments via telephone, not in-person. As such, it is more important than ever to present all relevant medical records (e.g., prior 6 months or more), and be certain to be specific and honest about the level of care required. It may be advisable to request the medical determination prior to submission of full application. *We can help you determine the best approach.*

During the application process, ALTCS will require complete copies of financial statements within 10 days of request and may also ask for details regarding specific transactions. With limited banking operations, it can be more difficult now to timely obtain required financial records. Advance preparation of financial documentation is critical. *We know what ALTCS will need and work with clients to obtain all financial documentation in advance to achieve ALTCS approval within the shortest timeframe possible and avoid denial for failure to timely disclose requested information, a common reason DIY applications are denied.*

Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) Continued

ABOUT US:

For over 20 years, Ms. Bivens and our team of attorneys and professionals have helped thousands qualify for ALTCS benefits to ensure long-term care needs are met while also preserving significant assets for our clients. There is a big difference between submitting an ALTCS application on one's own or with the help of a non-legal professional once all assets have been exhausted versus engaging an experienced elder law attorney to perform legal strategic asset protection planning using complex federal and state laws and policies along with estate planning, fiduciary representation, and care planning prior to and during processing of an ALTCS application. We understand the whole picture, provide comprehensive advice, coordinate with other professionals (e.g., care manager, placement professionals, physicians, financial advisors, etc.) as needed, and achieve results to help better the lives of our clients and their family. **Attorney and author Stephanie Bivens is a Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA), by National Elder Law Foundation;** attorneys **Ms. Bivens and Ms. Selvey** have both been recognized by **Southwest Super Lawyers in Elder law**. Additionally, our firm has been ranked #1 in Estate/Trust law and #2 in Elder Law among all Arizona law firms by Ranking Arizona (2020).

Want to learn more about ALTCS and long term care planning options? Put your mind at ease ...

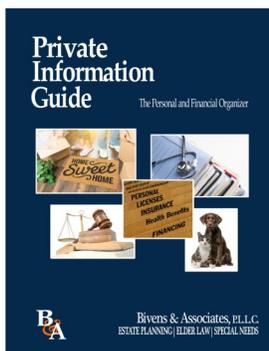
- Call 480-922-1010 or email info@bivenslaw.com to schedule an individual consultation to learn if this program is right for you. Whether it is advance planning, or you currently need long term care we can help devise a custom plan and help you strategize to achieve best personal and financial outcomes.
- Not ready for an individual consultation yet, but want more information? Or perhaps you work in senior care and are looking for information for yourself or your patients/residents?

Our book **"PAYING FOR LONG TERM CARE IN ARIZONA WITH FREE GOVERNMENT BENEFITS"** (2020 Edition) is available on Amazon. [Click here.](#)

- Looking for a speaker for your organization?

Our attorneys are available to give **workshops (by videoconference)** for support groups, senior communities, and other community partners. We believe information helps families and are happy to share our knowledge, experience, and compassion. We can also produce **educational videos** for your group.

Call 480-922-1010 or email Rebecca@bivenslaw.com to learn more.

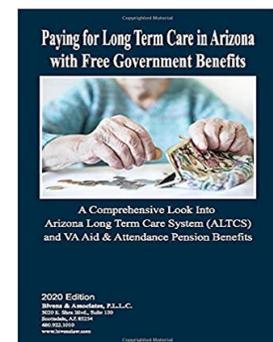


**Private Information Guide:
The Personal &
Financial Organizer**

Now Available at
amazon.com

**Paying for Long Term
Care in Arizona with
Free Government
Benefits:**

**ALTCS and VA Aid &
Attendance Pension
Benefits**





We are pleased to announce that attorneys **Stephanie A. Bivens** and **Megan Selvey** have both been selected to the 2020 Southwest Super Lawyers list in ELDER LAW.

This is an exclusive list, recognizing no more than 5% of attorneys in the southwest. Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters, is a research-driven, peer influenced rating service of outstanding lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Attorneys are selected from more than 70 practice areas and all firm sizes, assuring a credible and relevant annual list. The annual selections are made using a patented multiphase process that includes: • Peer nominations • Independent research by Super Lawyers • Evaluations from a highly credentialed panel of attorneys. The objective of Super Lawyers is to create a credible, comprehensive and diverse listing of exceptional attorneys to be used as a resource for both referring attorneys and consumers seeking legal counsel. The Super Lawyers lists are published nationwide in Super Lawyers Magazines and in leading city and regional magazines and newspapers across the country.



Our office family is growing. Aunt Lauren & Aunt Helen welcomed their little niece to the world. Congratulations!!!



Alzheimer's Institute & Sun Health Research Institute

July 30, 2020

10:00 - 11:30 am

Paying for Long Term Care

Individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia often require assistance with their personal care needs and activities of daily living, whether at home or in assisted living memory care. Medicare does not cover long term care expenses and the costs can often times be overwhelming.

However, there are other government benefits, namely the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS)/Medicaid and VA Aid & Attendance Pension programs, which can pay for and provide long term care services for persons who qualify. Attend this workshop to learn about these important programs, their eligibility criteria, and how to both preserve assets and qualify for these benefits. Whether you have a current need or are looking towards the future, this information will help you make decisions to achieve best personal and financial outcomes.

This virtual class is FREE and will be facilitated by Attorney Stephanie A. Bivens, C.E.L.A. (certified elder law attorney, by National Elder Law Foundation) and author of *Paying for Long Term Care in Arizona with Free Government Benefits*.

**Call TODAY to register
602-230-CARE (2273)**



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