

# Byrd & Byrd, LLC

October 2014



Dear Jacqueline D.,

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Byrd & Byrd email newsletter! We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and find helpful information along with the latest news from [Byrd & Byrd](#). Happy Reading!

## Stay Safe on Halloween A Few Tips for Seniors

In most communities, Halloween Trick or Treating is a fun, family-friendly event. Enjoy the night with your grandchildren, loved ones, neighbors and friends. Use common sense as you celebrate and keep yourself and others safe. Be cautious around anyone who may try to cause trouble, but don't let it stop you from putting on a silly costume and having fun as you pass out candy to the neighborhood children.

For more tips on having fun and keeping safe during Halloween, [read this article](#).

## Medicaid Misconceptions and The Truth About Long Term Care Medicaid by Brian Ritter



It is always a sad day when I hear that one of my clients was recently placed in a nursing home for either rehabilitation or long-term care. Why, you might ask? I can tell you that 99% of the clients I meet with say that it is their wish and desire to age in their own home. Also, the client says, "I don't want the nursing home to take my house."

The following are the most commonly heard Medicaid misconceptions:

1. **The most common misconception is that the nursing home will take your house.** This is absolutely false. Neither the State of Maryland which administers the Medicaid program, nor the nursing home can "take" your primary residence.
2. **If you give away assets, you have to wait five years before you can apply for Medicaid.** Again, this is absolutely false. The State of Maryland has the right to look at all your financial records for the five year period immediately prior to

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**Byrd & Byrd Voted  
Best Attorney in Bowie  
5 Years in a Row!**



**YouTube  
Video of the Month**

Here at Byrd & Byrd, we want to make the monthly newsletter enjoyable to read, attractive to view, and interactive for our

your Medicaid application date to see if a penalty period should be imposed. It is possible that the penalty period could be less than five years, so you wouldn't have to wait five years.

**3. You are allowed to give away \$14,000.00 to any number of individuals each year.** While that rule is true for IRS purposes, that is NOT true for Medicaid purposes. Remember, what is generally good for tax purposes is generally bad for Medicaid qualification purposes.

Do you have other Medicaid questions? Talk to the attorneys at Byrd and Byrd or plan on attending one of our Medicaid Monday seminars (details below).



Don't forget about our two FREE workshops we are offering during the Month of November.

**Medicaid Monday - November 10th at 5:30pm at our Bowie Office**

**Takeaway Thursday - November 20th at 5:30pm at our Prince Frederick Office**

If interested in attending or if you know someone who might be, please RSVP as soon as possible as space is limited.

For more information, please see the [upcoming events](#) listed below.

## Jackie's Senior Moments Column

To read Jackie's Senior Moments Column, please check out the [Byrd & Byrd blog](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Medicaid Monday  
November 10th, 2014  
Byrd & Byrd Office in Bowie, MD  
5:30pm - 7pm**

Attorney Jessica Estes will be hosting an informal seminar to discuss Medicaid on the second Monday of every month. We are calling these events "Medicaid Mondays". The next Medicaid Monday will be held on Monday, November 10th from 5:30 - 7pm at the Byrd & Byrd office in Bowie. Jessica will discuss the basics of Medicaid and answer any

readers. What better way to accomplish that than to post our favorite YouTube video each month.

Check out the video by clicking the following link.

[YouTube Video of the Month](#)

### Testimonials

"I didn't need the [Bowie Blade-News] to tell me. I already knew you were the best!"

-R. H.  
Bowie, MD

"Thank you so much for your hard work. It has made this difficult time a lot easier - I should have come to you guys sooner."

-G. M.  
Upper Marlboro, MD

questions you may have. Light refreshments will be provided. Please [RSVP](#) as space is limited to 10 per session.

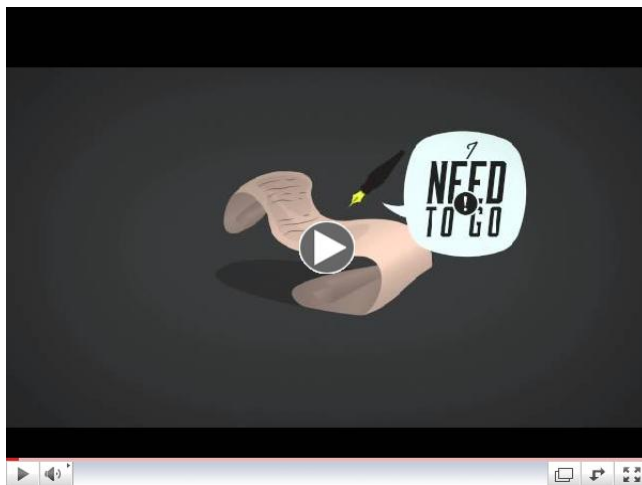
**Takeaway Thursdays**  
**November 20th, 2014**  
**Byrd & Byrd Office in Prince Frederick, MD**  
**5:30pm - 7pm**

On the third Thursday of each month from 5:30-7pm at our Prince Frederick office located at 30 Industry Lane, Attorney Brian Ritter conducts a casual and informative workshop on the basics of estate planning. These workshops are FREE and can help explain the in-and-outs of Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Estate Planning, and Probate. We are calling these workshops "Takeaway Thursdays" because we hope you takeaway valuable information on estate planning. Light refreshments will be provided. Please [RSVP](#) as space is limited.

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**Video of the Month**

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This month's YouTube Video is another special from Meddling Maude. She is giving advice on how to effectively communicate with a loved one suffering from dementia. Her advice is very helpful for the caregivers among us. Take a look...



Communicating with Someone with Dementia

**If you are interested in having an Attorney from Byrd & Byrd speak to your organization, or at a special event, please contact us at 301-464-7448.**

**About Our Firm**

The Law Firm of Byrd & Byrd, LLC provides services in Elder Law and Construction Law, a rare combination that reflects the passion and life experience of its partners. The firm is also a general practice firm that manages issues of family law, personal injury, wrongful death and medical malpractice.

Known for building strong long-term relationships with our clients, the firm's attorneys excel at making complicated legal issues easier to understand. Whether assisting a contractor, subcontractor, builder or property owner with contract or construction litigation, or helping an elderly client find appropriate housing, apply for Medicaid eligibility, or execute powers of attorney, the firm offers wise and experienced counsel and guidance.

### [Our Mission Statement](#)

Byrd & Byrd, LLC is dedicated to protecting and serving senior citizens and those who love them. Our key objective is to give our clients the gift of information, so that with their knowledge, they can achieve all the benefits that the law guarantees. We will always perform our mission in strict accordance to the law and the highest possible moral and ethical standards

### **Contact Information**

## **Byrd & Byrd, LLC**

14300 Gallant Fox Lane  
Suite 120  
Bowie, MD 20715  
301-464-7448  
Fax: 301-805-5178  
[www.byrdandbyrd.com](http://www.byrdandbyrd.com)

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Byrd & Byrd, LLC | 14300 Gallant Fox Lane | Suite 120 | Bowie | MD | 20715