



## **Knoxville Bar Association**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### ***Knoxville Bar Association Offers FREE LawTalk Series***

For Immediate Release

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Terry Schiavo did not set out to become a national symbol for failing to plan for the worst-case scenario, but she did. Unfortunately, many of our names could have been in those headlines instead of Schiavo's. Many Tennesseans think they've already made their plans known, but they don't know that because of recent changes in the law, their old living wills may not be adequate. Many more Tennesseans haven't even planned ahead with any living will, or as it is known now, 'advance directive.' Knoxvilleians have an opportunity to learn about these changes, and to learn how to make their wishes known, at the Knoxville Bar Association's LawTalk programs. The LawTalk series has been planned to help create better-informed citizens who understand what is involved in estate planning and administration. The LawTalk series are **free** educational programs which offer the community an opportunity to learn more about planning for their own security and that of their family and loved ones. Wills, powers of attorney (for financial and health care), living wills and trusts are the topics of the programs to be presented this fall as part of the Knoxville Bar Association's LawTalk series.

Through the LawTalk series, the Knoxville Bar Association intends that participants see how the complex web of the law relates to their everyday lives and has the potential to make those lives more fulfilling. Persons interested in attending LawTalk on Wills may choose to attend from 10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. on Friday, November 2, 2007 at Fellowship Church or Saturday, November 3, 2007 at the O'Connor Senior Center. At each location, local lawyers will present information and answer questions from the audience. The programs are intended to provide unbiased information on the topics presented, including forms which can be utilized by the public to implement the popular health care power of attorney and living will. Considerations in the selection of a health care proxy will also be discussed. Among the myths to be dispelled is that "only the rich need wills". In fact, wills are useful for many other reasons besides passing property at death, although that too is an important part of what a will does. A will is really a reflection of the relationships an individual has with other persons and institutions. These are the relationships which comprise the most important aspects of a person's life and through a will those relationships can be reinforced and strengthened.

Our second program in the series is entitled "Legal Issues-Protection for Elders & Their Caregivers". This program will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Fellowship Church. During the seminar, local attorneys will discuss the legal issues of how to finance long-term health care, the means by which assets can be preserved and the do's and don'ts of property transfers. Learn about the limits of Medicare and the myths and realities of nursing home spenddowns. This program will provide specific information about the protection and obligation for caregivers, including a review of recent changes in Medicaid laws and regulations, and probate "estate recovery" will be discussed. Baptist senior and care giver information booths will open at **9:00 a.m.** offering free take-home materials. Join us for a continental breakfast. The more information people have about these topics, the better they will be able to plan and implement decisions for their own circumstances and the care of their loved ones.

#### **Program Partners:**

Baptist Senior Services, Knox County Office on Aging  
O'Connor Senior Center and Knoxville Bar Foundation

**To register or for more information, please call the Knoxville Bar Association at 522-6522 or register online at [www.knoxbar.org](http://www.knoxbar.org).**