

Elder Law Workshop
Professor Dayton
Fall 2010

Consumer Project Guidelines

In this class you will prepare a short (approximately 5 page) paper, fact sheet, or similar document, directed at and written in terms accessible to a lay audience, explaining some aspect of elder law (see representative topics below). This project is worth 20% of the total points. You should think of the “project” as a consumer guide that provides basic information (although not specific legal advice) about a legal topic issue relating to elder law in terms that an older, non-legally trained potential client can easily understand. Your materials might also offer guidance as to where a person seeking legal advice might go to find an attorney who can assist her with legal problems in this area, such as a lawyer referral service, a legal aid organization, or a national or local organization of attorney-specialists such as NAELA or ACTEC. Any legal discussion included in the project work product should be based on Minnesota law unless you discuss with me in advance your intention to use another jurisdiction’s law.

Your consumer project will also be the subject of either a presentation that you will eventually give to an audience of real or mock senior citizens, or a “pod cast” or similar audio presentation that can be made available on-line. The presentation is worth 15% of the final grade. I will suggest a variety of forums in which you may present your paper to meeting the presentation requirement. You will also have an opportunity to publish your paper or other written materials that you prepare on the National Elder Law Network, www.neln.org or in some other publication aimed at older persons and their advocates.

Please obtain approval of your proposed topic from me before you begin drafting. I am available via email or by appointment to discuss your ideas either before or after you select a topic.

The first draft of your consumer project is due when you turn in the first draft of Workshop Assignment 5. The final draft is due when you turn in your first draft of Workshop Assignment 7.

Topic list. The topics listed below are examples only; if you have other ideas feel free to discuss them with me. All topics should be approved by me in advance.

- Anatomical Donations
- Assisted Living Facilities
- CLASS Act
- Durable Powers of Attorney
- Elder Abuse: Civil and Criminal Remedies
- Guardianships and Conservatorships in Minnesota
- Health Care Reform and Seniors
- *Housing Options for Disabled Seniors
- Identity Theft

Long Term Care Insurance
Native American Elders
*Nursing Home Residents' Rights
Pension Rights and Recovery
Pet Trusts
*Tax Relief for Seniors in Minnesota
Telemarketing and Internet Fraud
*Veteran's Benefits
*Viatical Settlements

Starred topics are areas in which I see a particular need for accessible resources.