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**Special Needs Planning News** is a monthly e-newsletter that brings you legal developments and trends of vital interest to individuals with special needs and their advocates. This Newsletter is brought to you by Donald Vanarelli, Attorney at Law.



### Why Do You Need a Certified Elder Law Attorney?

What is Elder Law? Elder Law is broad legal practice area involving the problems of older and disabled persons. Elder Law includes counseling and dispute resolution in a variety of areas including health and long-term care planning, identifying and accessing sources of financing for long-term medical care, nursing home issues, qualifying for Medicare, Medicaid and other public benefits, legal capacity, surrogate decision-making, estate planning and administration, including tax consequences, trust creation and administration, probate, retirement benefit disputes, estate and probate litigation, contested guardianships and elder mediation services.

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### Medicaid Recipients Can Keep More of an Award Thanks to Recent Budget Deal

What portion of a lawsuit award or settlement can go to the state to reimburse Medicaid? The new congressional budget deal finally clarifies the situation.

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### Many People with Disabilities Not Taking Advantage of Tax Credit

A surprising number of people -- including many people with disabilities -- do not take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit. The IRS is encouraging potential recipients to apply.

DETAILS



## Are Workers' Comp Benefits Ever Taxable?

While most workers' compensation benefits are fully tax exempt at the federal, state and local level, this is not always the case where the beneficiary is also receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.

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## New Law Mandates Creation of a National Plan to Support Caregivers

The RAISE Act, a new bill passed by Congress and signed into law, directs the federal government to create a national Family Caregiving Strategy.

FULL STORY



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