



242 St. Paul Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 232-7400
<http://VanarelliLaw.com>

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Unsigned, Unreviewed Will Can't Be Admitted to Probate, Regardless of the Decedent's Intent

The decedent's godchildren sought to probate a purported will that the decedent had neither reviewed nor signed. The decedent, who was 90 and in fragile health, had had a telephone conversation with an attorney she had never met. Based upon that conversation, the attorney drafted the decedent's 17-page will.

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May 2019 Social Security Trustees Report: Financial Problems Ahead

Each year the Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds report on the current and projected financial status of the two programs. Last month, the Board of Trustees released its [2019 Social Security Trustees Report](#), which is summarized below.

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Medicare Beneficiaries Need to Know the Difference Between a Wellness Visit and a Physical

Medicare covers preventative care services, including an annual wellness visit. But confusing a wellness visit with a physical could be very costly.

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What's a Health Care Proxy and Why Do I Need One?

If you become incapacitated, who will make your medical decisions? A health care proxy allows you to appoint someone else to act as your agent for medical decisions.

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How to Fight a Nursing Home Discharge

Once a resident is settled in a nursing home, being told to leave can be very traumatic. Nursing homes are required to follow certain procedures before discharging a resident, so it is important to know your rights.

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Maximizing Social Security Survivor's Benefits

Social Security survivor's benefits provide a safety net to widows and widowers. But to get the most out of the benefit, you need to know the right time to claim.

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How Parents Can Provide for a Caregiver Child

Taking care of a parent can be a full-time job. Parents who want to compensate a child who takes on the burden of caregiving may do so in one of several ways.

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Using a Donor-Advised Fund May Be a Way to Get a Charitable Tax Break Under the New Tax Law

Donor-advised funds are a growing trend in giving that may get more popular due to the new tax law.

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Protecting Your House After You Move Into a Nursing Home

While you generally do not have to sell your home in order to qualify for Medicaid coverage of nursing home care, it is possible the state can file a claim against your house after you die, so you may want to take steps to protect your house.

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What a Good Long-Term Care Insurance Policy Should Include

As long-term care costs continue to rise, long-term care insurance can help cover expenses, but long-term care insurance contracts are notoriously confusing. How do you figure out what is right for you?

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Costs of New Long-Term Care Insurance Policies Vary Considerably

We've all heard the advice "It pays to shop around," but this has never been more true than with the current market for long-term care insurance.

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Guns and Dementia: Dealing With A Loved One's Firearms

Having a loved one with dementia can be scary, but if you add in a firearm, it can also get dangerous. To prevent harm to both the individual with dementia and others, it is important to plan ahead for how to deal with any weapons.

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The Best and Worst States for Protection Against Elder Abuse

The older the population gets, the greater the potential for elder abuse. States have laws in place designed to combat elder abuse, but some states are doing a better job than others.

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Understanding Medicare's Hospice Benefit

Medicare's hospice benefit is one of the most comprehensive benefits and can be extremely helpful to both the terminally ill individual and his or her family, but it is little understood and underutilized.

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Learn About Social Security's Online Tools

With the aging population becoming increasingly tech savvy, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has moved a lot of services online. From applying for Social Security benefits to replacing a card, the SSA has online tools to help.

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IRS Issues Long-Term Care Premium Deductibility Limits for 2019

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is increasing the amount taxpayers can deduct from their 2019 income as a result of buying long-term care insurance.

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Be Careful About Putting Only One Spouse's Name on a Reverse Mortgage

A recent case involving basketball star Caldwell Jones demonstrates the danger in having only one spouse's name on a reverse mortgage.

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For First Time, Median Cost of Private Nursing Home Room Hits Six Figures in Annual Survey

The median cost of a private nursing home room in the United States increased to \$100,375 a year in 2018, up 3 percent from 2017, according to Genworth's annual Cost of Care survey.

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