MILLER ELDER LAW

JULY 2026 ISSUE

Elder Law Advisor

Life Care Planning for Living Well Through Life's Later Chapters

FROM OUR FOUNDER

WHAT INDEPENDENCE REALLY MEANS

As a Marine, Independence Day has always meant more to me than fireworks and celebrations. It reminds me of the freedoms we've been entrusted to protect and the responsibility that comes with them. Today, I find myself thinking about another kind of independence—the independence our clients hope to preserve as they grow older.

One of the greatest misconceptions about aging is that accepting help means losing independence. In reality, I've found the opposite is often true. Whether through thoughtful estate planning, Life Care Planning, or simply having trusted people in your corner, the right support can help preserve choice, dignity, and control for years to come.

July also reminds us that preparation matters. As hurricane season continues and we recognize Disability Pride Month, we're reminded that independence isn't about doing everything alone—it's about having a plan, the right resources, and the support needed to navigate whatever life brings. Preparing for emergencies, updating legal documents, and building a trusted team can provide peace of mind long before they're ever needed.

This month, I encourage you to think about what independence means for you and your family. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give ourselves and those we love is taking time to prepare before it's needed.

CONVERSATIONS THAT HELP FAMILIES AGE WELL

In this month's *Thriving to the Finish Line* episode, Shannon sits down with TMELF'S Elder Care Coordinator Laura Monday for an honest conversation about preparing for the end of life. Together, they discuss how open conversations and thoughtful planning can help families navigate this stage with greater confidence, understanding, and peace.

The conversation explores hospice, honoring a loved one's wishes, and why discussing end-of-life preferences before a crisis may be one of the greatest gifts we give our families.

▶️ *Tune in on YouTube, Spotify, or Apple Podcasts.*

UPCOMING LOCAL EXPERTS

DRS. KARLA SHELNUTT & ANNE MATHEWS BLUE ZONE EXPERIENCES	KATINA MUSTIPHER ELDER OPTIONS	MICHAEL MALONEY WE HONOR VETERANS PROGRAM

INVITED TO THE CONVERSATION

Shannon was honored to speak at the Union County Impact Initiative on June 24th, where she shared practical guidance on recognizing and preventing financial exploitation of older adults. Drawing on the latest research surrounding the "exploitable brain," she explained how cognitive changes can increase vulnerability to scams and why early intervention is so important.

The presentation also highlighted Florida's innovative legal tools designed to help protect victims, preserve assets, and support families before a crisis occurs. We are grateful for opportunities like these to partner with communities across North Central Florida and empower families through education and prevention.

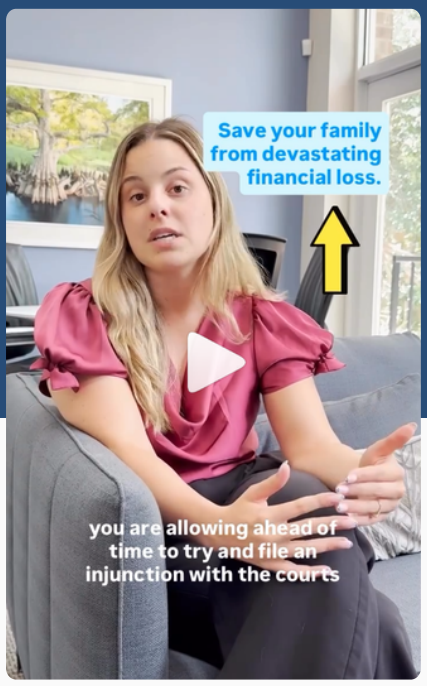
WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

EMERGENCY READINESS STARTS BEFORE THE STORM

Hurricane season reminds us that emergency preparedness is about more than flashlights, bottled water, and batteries. In our webinar, *Prepared & Protected: Emergency Readiness*, Elder Care Coordinator Jo Lisa Byers shares practical guidance to help families prepare before a crisis occurs—from organizing important legal documents to creating communication plans and knowing when it's time to evacuate.

The webinar also explores often-overlooked details like medication supplies, emergency contacts, planning for pets, and making sure loved ones know your wishes before an emergency arises. A little preparation today can provide tremendous peace of mind tomorrow.

Watch the full **Prepared & Protected: Emergency Readiness** webinar on YouTube today.



PROTECTING LOVED ONES FROM FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Financial scams targeting older adults continue to grow in both frequency and sophistication, making prevention more important than ever. In this short video, **Associate Attorney Kate Ramey** explains Florida's Pre-need Exploitation Injunction Waiver and Consent—a little-known legal tool that allows someone you trust to seek court intervention and help protect your assets if financial exploitation occurs.

Learn how planning ahead can provide an added layer of protection and why this document has become an important part of many Florida estate plans. Watch the reel on **Instagram** to discover how proactive planning can help safeguard both your finances and your independence.

IN OUR CLIENTS' WORDS

"Karen, thank you for all you do and I hope John will be ok for now."
- Beatrice Hart

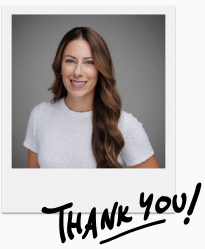
Hand Written Note

"Twenty-one years after Shannon helped my mother, The Miller Elder Law Firm was the only firm on my list when it came time to create my own estate plan. Their compassion, expertise, and patience gave me the confidence and peace of mind to move forward knowing everything was finally in place."
- Barry Greenberg

★★★★★ Review from Google (summarized)

"The Miller Elder Law Firm gave us the peace of mind we were looking for. Their team [with Ashley as the lead paralegal] listened carefully, treated us with kindness and empathy, and helped us create a plan for the future while keeping us informed about elder abuse and scams."
- Kevin & Linda Flynn

★★★★★ Review from Facebook (summarized)



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Elder law begins with showing up, and we're grateful for the opportunities to stay connected with the people, organizations, and professionals who strengthen our community. Here are a few highlights from the past month:

AFELA – Shannon joined elder law leaders from across the state at the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys' annual strategic planning meeting, collaborating on initiatives to strengthen advocacy and advance the practice of elder law.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – Jo Lisa represented TMELF at the WEAA Day event, connecting with community partners and helping raise awareness about protecting older adults from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

End-of-Life Doula Meeting – Shannon recently joined the Gainesville End-of-Life Doula community gathering, spending time listening, sharing, and supporting others through meaningful conversations about death, grief, and compassionate care.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

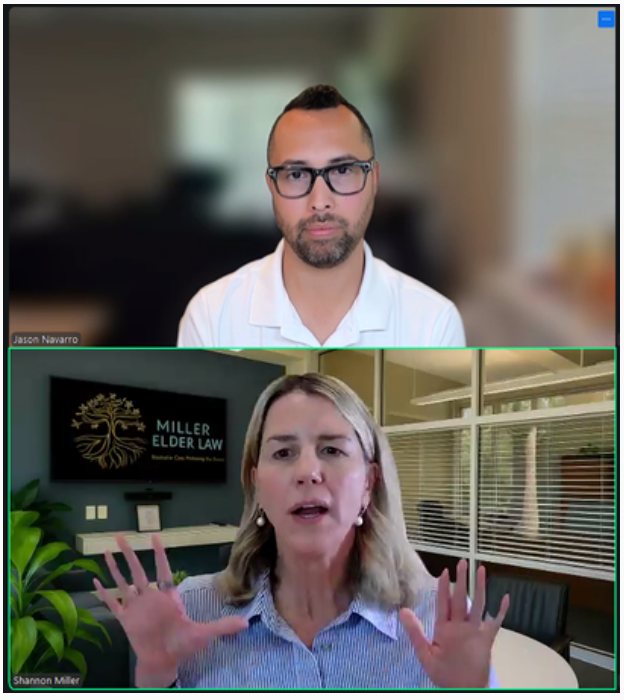
June gave us the opportunity to celebrate a couple more birthdays on our team.
We're grateful for the care, dedication, and heart our team members bring to the work we do every day.

Samantha Oquendo
Intake Specialist

Mia Cuneo
Law Clerk

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Shannon was invited to join Jason Navarro on the *Elder Law Growth Podcast* to share the journey of TMELF and how our commitment to Life Care Planning has shaped the way we serve older adults and their families. We are grateful for the opportunity to encourage other elder law & estate planning firms as they seek to strengthen support for aging communities.



We're excited to share that we have submitted our application to become an approved continuing education provider for social workers, nurses, discharge planners, and other professionals. This will allow us to expand our educational offerings & better equip those who serve older adults throughout our community.

On October 24th, our team will proudly participate in the **Walk to End Alzheimer's** as both a sponsor and a walking team. We'd love for you to join us in supporting families affected by Alzheimer's disease. Whether you walk alongside us or help us reach our fundraising goal, every step makes a difference. Visit **this link** to register and join Team TMELF!

We hope you'll join us for these upcoming opportunities to learn, connect, and engage with our team and community partners.

Advance Directives Workshop – On August 13th at 11:00 a.m., join us at The Glenwood of Gainesville as we discuss the importance of advance directives and the legal documents every adult should have in place to ensure their wishes are honored.

Rubber Duckie Races – On August 20th at 2:30 p.m., stop by and visit our team at the Rubber Duckie Races in Ocala! We'll be joining our community partners for an afternoon of fun while sharing resources to help families plan confidently for the future.

Living Well Series – On September 22nd at 10:30 a.m., Shannon will be speaking at the North Central Florida Community Center in partnership with Next Steps Senior Solutions, sharing practical strategies to help older adults protect themselves from financial exploitation.

Client Café: Estate Planning for the Next Generation – Join us virtually on September 25th at 1:00 p.m. as we explore why estate planning isn't just for retirees. We'll discuss the essential estate planning documents every adult should have in place and encourage our clients to invite their children, grandchildren, and other loved ones to learn how planning today can provide peace of mind for tomorrow.

Fall Wellness Event – Join us on October 16th from 1:30–5:00 p.m. at the Senior Recreation Center for an afternoon of education, wellness, and connection. We're excited to partner with many of the local professionals featured on this year's *Thriving to the Finish Line* podcast to bring valuable resources together in one place.

Legacy Planning Seminar – On October 24th at 9:00 a.m., Shannon and Genna will present a complimentary Legacy Planning Seminar at The Pentecostals of Gainesville, offering practical guidance to help families protect what matters most and plan confidently for the future.