

MILLER ELDER LAW

AUGUST 2026 ISSUE

Elder Law Advisor

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

FROM OUR FOUNDER

A PLAN FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT — AND FOR WHAT HAPPENS NOW

August is National Make-A-Will Month, and if you don't have a will, it's a great reminder to create one. But after decades of working with older adults and their families, I've learned that some of the hardest questions families face aren't about what happens after someone dies. They're about what happens while they're still living.

What happens when Mom wants to stay home but needs more support? When Dad's health begins to change? When siblings disagree about what comes next? Or when a family suddenly finds themselves navigating doctors, care facilities, benefits, finances, and legal decisions all at once? A good estate plan provides an important legal foundation. But families often need someone beside them as life changes, too.

That's why I believe so deeply in Life Care Planning. It brings legal planning together with ongoing advocacy, care coordination, and support so families aren't left trying to navigate aging alone. As needs change, we can help families understand their options, connect with trusted resources, advocate for their loved one's wishes, and make thoughtful decisions before every challenge becomes a crisis.

Increasingly, our mission isn't only to provide that kind of care to families here in North Central Florida—we want to help make it available to more families everywhere. We've been opening our doors and sharing what we've learned with other elder law firms working to build or strengthen their own Life Care Planning programs. When another firm learns to do this work well, the impact multiplies: more older adults have advocates, more caregivers have support, and more families have a plan not only for what happens someday, but for living well today.



THRIVING TO THE FINISH LINE

FEATURING

Shannon Miller,
Michael Maloney &
Jodie Goodman

OF HAVEN HOSPICE



In this episode of *Thriving to the Finish Line*, Shannon talks with Michael Maloney and Jodie Goodman of [Haven Hospice](#) about hospice care, supporting caregivers, and helping people feel valued and connected through life's final chapter.

Michael also shares Haven's work honoring veterans through personalized recognition ceremonies—giving veterans an opportunity to reflect on their service and share their stories with those they love. It's a beautiful reminder that end-of-life care isn't only about preparing for death, but about living meaningfully through the very end.

▶ Tune in on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), or [Apple Podcasts](#).

UPCOMING CONVERSATIONS

KATINA MUSTIPHER
ELDER OPTIONS

DRS. KARLA SHELNUTT & ANNE MATHEWS
BLUE ZONE EXPERIENCES

DUG MILLER
SHANNON'S DAD!

INVITED TO THE CONVERSATION

After recognizing an opportunity for Life Care Planning firms to learn more directly from one another, Shannon helped spearhead the creation of the [Life Care Planning Law Firms Association's](#) 2026 Academy: Foundations—a five-part national training program designed to help firms build, strengthen, and refine their Life Care Planning programs.

In July, that idea officially came to life as Shannon joined fellow leaders Amy Nowaczyk and Brian Tully to facilitate the Academy's opening session. The program will continue through November, creating a space for firms across the country to share what works, strengthen their approach, and ultimately provide better advocacy and support to the older adults and families they serve.



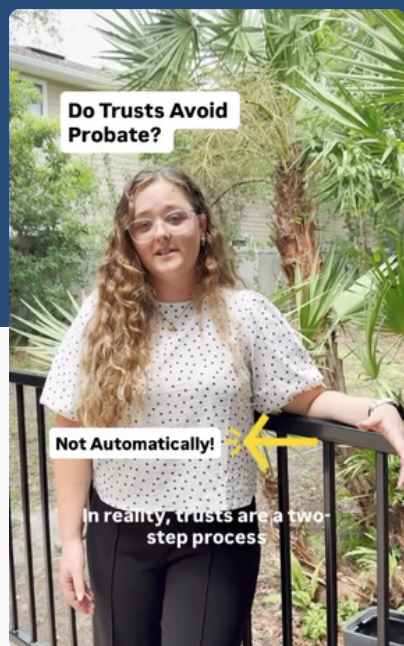
WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

FLORIDA LAW IS CHANGING — HERE'S WHAT COULD AFFECT YOUR FAMILY

Several recent changes to Florida law could have a meaningful impact on older adults and their families. Beginning July 1, the estate value eligible for summary administration increased from \$75,000 to \$150,000, potentially allowing more families to use a simplified probate process. Other thresholds for handling smaller estates increased as well.

Florida is also strengthening protections against financial exploitation. New legislation addressing cryptocurrency ATM scams includes required anti-scam warnings, transaction limits, and potential refunds in qualifying fraud cases reported promptly. Recent court decisions have also clarified important issues involving trusts, probate, and testamentary capacity—including that a dementia diagnosis alone does not automatically prevent someone from executing estate planning documents.

The takeaway? Florida law continues to evolve, and planning should evolve with it. Periodically reviewing your estate plan can help ensure it still reflects your wishes and takes advantage of the protections available today.



CREATING A TRUST IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP

As families consider changes in Florida law, it's also a good time to revisit an important estate planning basic. In a recent Reel, Associate Attorney Bailey Piner explains a common misconception: creating a trust alone doesn't necessarily mean your assets will avoid probate.

For a trust to work as intended, it also needs to be properly funded, which may include retitling assets into the trust. Bailey explains why both creating and funding your trust matter—and how getting those details right today can make things much easier for your loved ones later.

[▶ WATCH BAILEY EXPLAIN](#)

IN OUR CLIENTS' WORDS

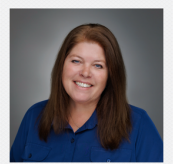
"Coming from a different state, we needed to update our will now that we live in Florida. This is a great firm to work with, and I would recommend them."

- Tony Lander

★★★★★ Review from Google



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

"Very knowledgeable about elder care and trusts if you have a disabled child. They did a great job getting my will created. Highly recommend!"

- Anne S.

★★★★★ Review from Google

"Attorney Shannon Miller was extremely patient, understanding, and kind while guiding my wife and me through the process of developing our Revocable Trust. We highly recommend her and her team!"

- Dr. Bruce Branin

★★★★★ Review from Google



THANK YOU!

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Building Stronger Connections for the Families We Serve

Community Partners Luncheon – We welcomed 13 local professionals to our office for an afternoon of connection and collaboration, strengthening relationships among those who serve older adults and exploring ways we can better support families together.

City Commissioners Event – Tyler represented The Miller Elder Law Firm at the Cotton Club Museum & Cultural Center, connecting with local leaders and organizations working to strengthen our Gainesville community.

Leadership Gainesville Connections – Zach met individually with several community partners from his Leadership Gainesville cohort to learn more about their work, explore opportunities to serve older adults in their circles, and continue building a stronger network of trusted resources for our clients.

July gave us the opportunity to celebrate a few more birthdays on our team and a brand new team member! We're grateful for the care, dedication, and heart our colleagues bring to the work we do every day.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM



Chloe Daniel
Office Assistant

BIRTHDAYS



Rachel Scott
LCP Case Manager



Amber Harvey
Office Manager



Karen Cox
Front Office Supervisor

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

For the past ten years, Korene has been an important part of The Miller Elder Law Firm's growth and evolution. Over the course of a decade, she has brought consistency, experience, and a deep familiarity with our firm and the families we serve as a paralegal. Reaching ten years together is an incredible milestone, and we are grateful for Korene's dedication and all she has contributed throughout the many seasons of our firm.

 [Check out Korene's Anniversary Video!](#)



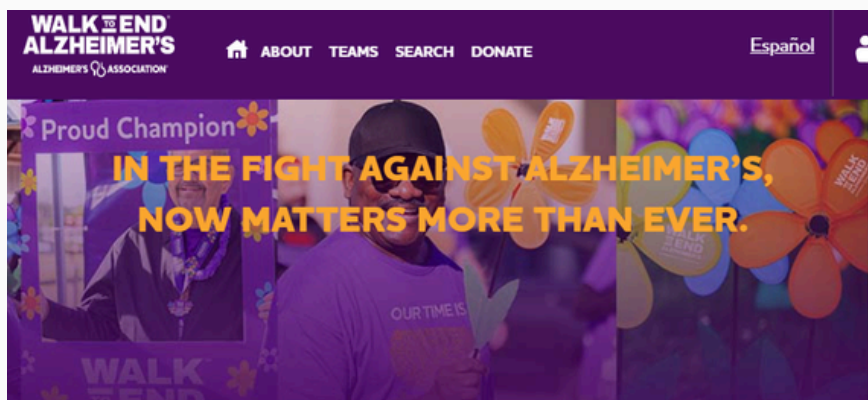
For the past six years, Genna has played an integral role in both serving our clients and helping shape the direction of our firm. Her leadership, legal expertise, and commitment to Life Care Planning have helped us continually strengthen the way we support older adults and their families. We are grateful for the care and perspective Genna brings to our team as the CEO and excited to see her influence continue to grow both within our firm and beyond it.

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our team will be walking in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 24, and we'd love for our clients, friends, and community partners to join us! Walk alongside Team Miller Elder Law or make a donation to help support the fight to end Alzheimer's.

♥ [JOIN OUR TEAM OR DONATE](#)

Jo Lisa completed a full-day dementia-care training in Ocala and earned her certification, expanding her expertise in the roles lifestyle and medicine can play in dementia care and strengthening the knowledge she brings to the families she supports as an Elder Care Coordinator.



Team page of TMELF

[DONATE TO THE TEAM](#)

[JOIN OUR TEAM](#)

[Edit My Team Page](#)

Welcome to our team page for the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®! Walk is the largest event to raise funds and awareness for the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association®. It's held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, and our team is excited to participate this year.

Currently, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and over 11 million family and friends provide their unpaid care. We need your help to end this devastating disease. You can make an impact with a donation or even joining our team. Your kindness and generosity truly make a difference in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Thank you for your support!



Share Our Page



Genna was named Chair of the LCPLFA 2027 Conference Planning Committee and began leading planning efforts in July, helping shape a national conference focused on strengthening Life Care Planning and improving how firms across the country serve older adults and their families.



Conversations About
Death & Dying
with
Gainesville
End-of-Life Doulas

Everyone Is Welcome!

Millhopper Branch Library, 3145 NW 43rd St, Gainesville FL

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 - 12:00noon to 1pm

Saturday, October 3, 2026 - 12:00noon to 1:30pm

Info: GoodGriefWoman@gmail.com

Following her end-of-life doula training, Shannon has become involved with the Gainesville End-of-Life Doula community, joining conversations that create space for honest, meaningful discussions about death, dying, grief, and end-of-life care. Everyone is invited to join their next community conversation on September 9th.

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

Around the World at Ayers — August 28 at 1:30 p.m. — Join us at Ayers Health & Rehabilitation Center in Trenton for an afternoon of food, culture, and connection. Our team will be representing Vienna, Austria!

Springhill Health Fair — September 12th at 11 a.m. — We'll join ElderCare of Alachua County and other community organizations at Springhill Church to connect attendees with resources that support healthy aging.

Touching Hearts at Home Community Health Fair — September 18th at 10 a.m. — Join us at the Senior Recreation Center for a free community health fair featuring screenings, wellness resources, local providers, and information for seniors and caregivers, benefiting ElderCare of Alachua County.

Senior Spotlight — September 19th at 11 a.m. — We'll join the City of Gainesville at the Senior Recreation Center for its second annual Senior Spotlight, connecting older adults and families with local organizations, resources, and services.

Living Well Series — September 22nd at 10:30 a.m. — Shannon will join Next Steps Senior Solutions at the North Central Florida Community Center to share practical ways older adults and families can protect themselves from financial exploitation.

Estate Planning for the Next Generation Client Café — September 25th at 1 p.m. — We're inviting clients to bring their children and grandchildren to this virtual conversation about the essential estate planning documents younger adults should have in place.

Fall Wellness Event — October 16th at 1:30 p.m. — Join us at the Senior Recreation Center as we bring together experts from *Thriving to the Finish Line* for an afternoon of education, resources, and connection focused on aging well.

Trunk or Treat at Oak Hammock — October 21st at 5 p.m. — Come see us at Oak Hammock's Trunk or Treat! We'll join other community partners in decorating trunks and handing out treats for a fun fall evening.



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