MILLER ELDER LAW

OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE

Elder Law Advisor

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

FROM OUR FOUNDER



PLANNING WITH PURPOSE, LIVING WITH DIGNITY

One thing I've learned after years of working with older adults and their families is that people don't necessarily worry about getting older. They worry about losing control over their lives. They worry about becoming a burden to their children, having someone else make decisions for them, or ending up in a situation they never would have chosen for themselves. And those are real concerns that deserve more than a stack of legal documents.

October brings Long-Term Care Planning Month, Estate Planning Awareness Week, and Residents' Rights Month. They're all connected. I've seen how difficult things become when families haven't discussed what matters most. Planning isn't just about what happens when we die. It's about protecting how we want to live while we're still here.



Sometimes that means choosing someone we trust to make decisions if we can't. Other times, it's figuring out how to pay for care, finding the right support to remain at home, or advocating for someone whose wishes aren't being heard in a hospital or care facility. And I think we have to be careful about assuming that needing help means someone can no longer make their own choices. Needing assistance shouldn't mean giving up your dignity, independence, or voice in decisions about your life.

We can't control everything that comes with aging, and even the best plans won't prevent every difficult situation. But we can have conversations with the people we love, make sure our wishes are understood, and put the right support in place before it's needed. The goal isn't to plan for every possible thing that could go wrong. It's to make sure the people we love aren't left guessing about what matters most to us.

- Shannon

CONVERSATIONS THAT HELP FAMILIES AGE WELL



In this month's episode of *Thriving to the Finish Line*, Shannon welcomes a very special guest—her dad, Dr. Douglas "Dug" Miller. At 84, he's still researching insects, walking three miles a day, gardening, traveling, and enjoying life with family and friends.

In this warm, funny father-daughter conversation, they explore what it means to age well, stay independent, and find purpose at every stage of life. From mentoring young scientists to fishing trips and his famous chocolate pie, Dug reminds us that growing older doesn't mean we have to stop doing what brings us joy.

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

UPCOMING CONVERSATIONS

DR. EMILY CICALI MYRX PHARMACOGENETIC TESTING	KATINA MUSTIPHER ELDER OPTIONS	AYESHA SOLOMON ALACHUA COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

INVITED TO THE CONVERSATION



On September 22nd, Genna Fasullo LaPeer joined the Living Well Series, hosted by **Next Steps Senior Solutions** at the North Central Florida Community Center. Her presentation, "Living Well, Planning Ahead: Protecting Yourself, Your Assets & Your Wishes," explored how thoughtful planning can help older adults maintain independence, protect what they've worked for, and ensure their wishes are respected. Genna encouraged attendees to have important conversations before a crisis occurs, from choosing trusted decision-makers to preparing for future care needs.

WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT IS HERE! ARE YOU READY?

Medicare Open Enrollment runs from **October 15 through December 7**, giving beneficiaries an opportunity to review their coverage and make changes for 2027. Even if you're happy with your current plan, it's important to take another look. Premiums, prescription drug coverage, provider networks, and out-of-pocket costs can change from year to year.

Choosing the right Medicare coverage isn't always straightforward. A plan that worked well last year may no longer meet your needs or budget. Comparing options, checking your doctors and medications, and understanding potential costs can help prevent unexpected expenses.



Not sure where to begin? In our **Navigating Medicare Open Enrollment** webinar, Shannon Miller welcomes Cheryl Harris of **Florida's SHINE program** to discuss Medicare coverage options, common mistakes, and helpful resources for making informed decisions. Whether you're reviewing your current plan or helping a loved one navigate Medicare, this conversation is a great place to start.

PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN DOESN'T END AT 18

What happens when a child inherits a significant amount of money before they're ready to manage it? In September's most-watched Reel, Shannon shares the story of a young woman who lost both parents and grew up under the care of her aunt and uncle. Despite years of preparation, turning over her inheritance at 18 raised an important question: Is being legally an adult the same as being financially ready?



Shannon explains how thoughtful estate planning, including a trust within a will, can help protect children's futures while giving them time to develop the skills and maturity to manage their inheritance.

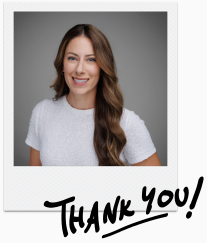
▶ WATCH SHANNON EXPLAIN

IN OUR CLIENTS' WORDS

"I just finished signing my will. Bailey was amazing at explaining everything. Mia was also a charm to work with. Together they made something very confusing/scary to me easy to understand. Many hugs to them." **- Renee**

Text Review to Shannon





"Knowledgeable and professional staff."
- Terri M.

★★★★★ Review from Google

"The Miller Elder Law Firm is very professional and took care of all my needs in a very timely manner and they are very passionate and understanding. I strongly recommend them to be able to take care of your loved ones and to help navigate you through your journey." **- Cyndi M.**

★★★★★ Review from Facebook



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Connecting, Caring & Supporting Our Community in September

Springhill Health Fair – Bailey joined ElderCare for a day focused on connecting older adults and families with valuable health, wellness, and community resources.

Touching Hearts at Home Community Health Fair – Zach, Kate, and Emily connected with attendees at the Senior Recreation Center, sharing resources and building relationships with families and fellow community organizations.

Senior Spotlight – Genna and Zach joined the City of Gainesville in celebrating older adults and recognizing the important role they play in making our community stronger.

Falls Prevention Expo – Zach and Emily represented the firm at Elder Options' expo, helping raise awareness about fall prevention, safety, and maintaining independence as we age.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

September gave us the opportunity to celebrate Hannah's birthday on our team.
We're grateful for the dedication, ideas, and support she brings to the work we do every day.



Hannah Robinson
Public Benefits Paralegal

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

September marked two years since Rachel Scott returned to The Miller Elder Law Firm! Having previously been part of our team, Rachel brings a special history with the firm and a wealth of experience to her role as Life Care Planning Case Manager. Her compassion, knowledge, and dedication help families navigate some of life's most challenging decisions. We're grateful to have Rachel back and appreciate the care she brings to our clients every day!



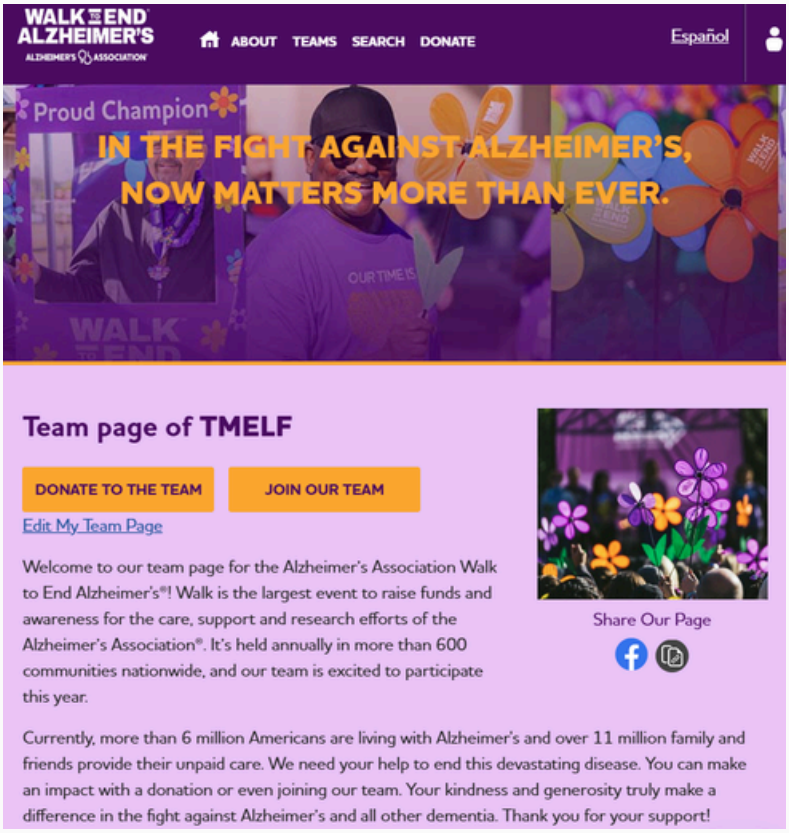


September marked Zach Mayo-Frey's first anniversary with The Miller Elder Law Firm! As our Director of Strategy & Innovation, Zach brings creativity, energy, and fresh ideas to strengthening community partnerships, expanding educational opportunities, and improving how we serve clients. His enthusiasm for connecting people and finding innovative solutions continues to help our firm grow. We're grateful for his dedication and the positive impact he's made in his first year!

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our team will be walking in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 24th, 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**



Shannon Miller was featured in *Mainstreet Daily News* as part of its *Aging Matters* series, sharing her insights on elder abuse and the importance of recognizing warning signs, protecting vulnerable older adults, and ensuring their voices are heard.

Shannon Miller and Genna Fasullo LaPeer hosted our September 25 Client Café, "*You've Been Named—Now What?*" along with our associate attorneys, Kate Ramey, Bailey Piner & Mia Cuneo. They helped clients better understand the responsibilities that come with being named in important estate planning documents and how to prepare for those roles.



We are thrilled to celebrate Mia Cuneo, who passed the Florida Bar in September! After spending more than a year working alongside our team as a law clerk, Mia has officially joined The Miller Elder Law Firm as our fifth attorney. We're incredibly proud of her hard work and excited to see her continue growing with us!

JOIN US

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

Legacy Planning Seminar — October 24th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Shannon Miller and Genna Fasullo LaPeer will join The Pentecostals of Gainesville to share valuable guidance on estate planning and protecting loved ones.

Legal Professions Day — October 27th at 5 p.m. – Genna Fasullo LaPeer will participate in the University of Florida's Legal Professions Day, connecting with and inspiring the next generation of legal professionals.

Trunk or Treat at The Plaza — October 29th at 5 p.m. – We're excited to join The Plaza for a festive evening of Halloween fun, treats, and community connection!

Sidney Lanier Center Fall Festival — October 30th from 10 a.m. to noon – Our team will join students, families, and community partners for a morning of fall festivities while sharing resources on guardianship and special needs planning.

Trunk or Treat at Ayers — October 30th at 6 p.m. – Come celebrate Halloween with us at Ayers Health & Rehabilitation Center in Trenton for an evening of costumes, treats, and community fun!

Plan Well, Live Well — November 3rd at 11:30 a.m. – Join Shannon Miller at The Village for an informative conversation about aging, elder law, and end-of-life planning.

The Gables Fall Festival — November 4th from 3 to 4:30 p.m. – We'll join residents, families, and community partners at The Gables for an afternoon of seasonal fun and connection.

Dementia Resource Expo — November 6th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Visit our team in Ocala to explore helpful resources, education, and support for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

Dementia Caregiver Conference — November 19th at 10 a.m. – Shannon Miller will serve as an expert panelist at Elder Options' conference at The Village, where our team will also share resources and connect with caregivers.

INVITE US TO YOUR NEXT EVENT!

Hosting an event or know a group that could benefit from an elder law presentation? We'd love to connect! Email Zach Mayo-Frey at zachm@millerelderlawfirm.com to explore opportunities.

Great things are happening in our community!

We're fortunate to work alongside incredible organizations dedicated to helping older adults, caregivers, and families thrive. Here's a look at upcoming events and opportunities hosted by our community partners.



Karaoke for a Cause — October 26th from 4:30 to 8 p.m. – Join Touching Hearts at Home at One Love Cafe in Gainesville for an evening of karaoke competitions, costumes, food trucks, and fun! All event proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association. Bring your friends and help make a difference!

Falls, Slips & Trips: Reinventing Fall Reduction with Technology — November 4th at 10 a.m. or 4 p.m. – Join The Windsor of Gainesville for an informative presentation with Eric Nadler of Select Rehabilitation. Discover how technology can help identify fall risks and support safer, more confident aging. Refreshments provided! RSVP by November 2nd at **352-525-4141**.



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