

Local News

SUMMIT BY MORRISON AND THE MORRISON ASSISTED LIVING AND SKILLED NURSING CARE

Elder care lawyers: Do you or your parents need one?



BY SHANNON LYNCH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Being prepared for what happens as we age can be a daunting task – whether that is saving enough money for retirement, understanding who will make decisions regarding your health when you are not able

or having your affairs in order for when you pass. Who do you turn to for guidance and assistance?

Some decisions can be handled by the family. There are also some great free resources on the internet where you can do your own research, such as plan-your-lifespan.org, a site which offers seniors a full look at what they need to consider as they age.

However, some situations may need the services of a trained professional, such as an elder care lawyer. Elder care lawyers advocate for the

elderly and those with special needs, and have developed a network of psychologists, social workers and long term care planners. They can assist with:

Wills and estate planning.

Health care planning, including long term care options, and nursing home patient rights.

Power of attorney and legal guardianship.

Financial planning, including retirement accounts and tax guidance.

Government benefits, including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

There are just over

500 lawyers across the country who have met the standards of the National Elder Law Foundation (NELF) to earn recognition as a Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA). The rigorous certification process includes a six-hour exam that has an average pass rate of 33 percent.

Among the eight CELAs based in northern New England, three are located in New Hampshire. Additionally, more New Hampshire-based attorneys are members of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA).

If you determine an

elder care lawyer may be needed for you or a loved one, find the one that is right for your circumstance. Like any other attorney, an elder care lawyer has a particular area of focus. Here are some factors when considering the right elder care lawyer for you or a loved one:

Experience with similar cases

Specialty Rates, including initial fee

Willingness to make house calls and any fees associated with that service

Certification (NELF, NAELA) and training,

including familiarity with any laws or regulations specific to New Hampshire

If retaining an elder care lawyer is not an affordable option, New Hampshire Legal Assistance offers support through the Senior Law Project. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services also support adults 60 and older through its Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services.

More than anything, planning for the future requires having the faith and trust in someone to be there when you need them.

NEK Chamber sees record crowd at “Big E”

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Northeast Kingdom Chamber had its best weekend ever at the Eastern States Exposition this year, as the chamber greeted almost 30,000 more people in the Vermont Building than in 2017, as attendance at New England’s largest fair soared to 295,433 for the last weekend of the 17-day Big E.

According to Chamber Executive Director Darcie McCann, who worked at the tourism kiosk in the Vermont building on the Avenue of the States, Saturday’s attendance came within 694 visitors of besting the all-time record of 172,659 visitors. She noted she had more people than usual stating they either had a second home in the state or were looking for one, which is good news for Vermont.

“I have heard so many times from people visiting the building how much they love our state,” said McCann. “They remark that it is not just the beauty of the state but the warmth of the people. They really feel a special affinity for our state.”

She noted that while each New England state has a building at the annual exposition, the Vermont building, is, hands down, the fan favorite due to the variety of the food, artisan and specialty product booths in the structure.

“By far, the Vermont building smells the best,” joked McCann, noting cider donuts, cookies of all sorts, pizza, apple pies and maple cotton candy is all made in the building. “It is the only building at the fair that you gain weight by just entering the building.”

The Northeast Kingdom Chamber has distributed packets of its members’ promotional materials for

decades at the Big E, held in September and early October in West Springfield, Mass. More than 1.5 million people attended the fair this year, with the vast majority of the people walking into the Vermont building. The Big E recorded 171,965 in attendance on Sept. 29 and 123,468 on Sept. 30. That is 100,000 more than what the fair tallied for that same weekend in 2016. The Vermont tourism kiosk, where the NEK Chamber staff worked, is at the front of the building, in the structure’s premier location, right as you enter the front doors.

Businesses included within the NEK visitor packet included NEK Chamber, Burke Mountain, the Great Vermont Corn Maze, NEK Adventures snowmobile and ATV tours, Old Stone House Museum, NorthWoods

Stewardship Center, Kingdom Trails, Sugar Ridge RV Village & Campground, Century 21 Farm & Forest, Rabbit Hill Inn, Comfort Inn & Suites, St. Johnsbury Chamber, Maple Grove Farms of Vermont, Bag Balm, Hearth & Home Country Store, Farm-Way and the Island Pond Chamber. In addition to the visitor packets, information for potential relocation included the Kingdom Guide, Lyndon Institute and St. Johnsbury Academy.

“There are few venues that you can promote your region to such a large audience in such a short time and the Big E is one of the best places to do that on the East Coast,” said McCann. “Our chamber members and region benefit greatly from our organization’s presence at the fair each year.”

COURTESY

(Right) The impressive Anheuser Busch Clydesdales prepare for the daily parade at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. The Northeast Kingdom Chamber worked at the tourism booth in the Vermont building on the Avenue of the States on the busy last weekend of the fair.



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