

1941 SOUTH 42ND STREET
SUITE #312
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

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HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30-4:30

OUR MISSION

TO SIMPLIFY THE LIVES OF
SENIORS BY ENABLING THEM TO
MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS
REGARDING THEIR BENEFITS

vas

VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING SENIORS

JUNE / JULY 2016

Estate Planning Workshop, Friday, July 15, 1:30pm

VAS is committed to helping older adults make good life decisions. We are expanding our services to provide information on Basic Estate Planning. The workshop presents an opportunity to learn in a nonthreatening, classroom environment, and uses simple to understand language. The goal is to develop a better understanding of how your estate plans work so you will have an easier time making the important personal decisions necessary to design plans that meet your needs. Attorney Tom Prohaska has developed and will present the workshop.

Basic Estate Planning will cover:

- Lifetime planning—financial and medical powers of attorney, living wills
- Succession planning—wills, living or revocable trusts
- Alternatives and supplements to wills
- Taxes related to death
- Mistakes to avoid

Call VAS at 402-444-6617 to reserve a seat for the workshop being offered on Friday, July 8, at 1:30pm. The workshop is free of charge.



The class will be held at:
VAS, Volunteers Assisting Seniors
1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 312

If you would like to attend a future workshop, please call VAS at 402-444-6617 to be notified of upcoming classes.

VAS Interviewing for Medicare Phone Counselor

Wills
Trusts
Estates

Signature
Si

Identity Theft Basics

Identity Theft

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that 9 million people have their identity stolen each year. Identity thieves use names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and financial information of their victims to obtain credit cards, loans, and bank accounts for themselves.

What if you think someone has stolen your identity?

If you believe you are a victim of identity theft:

- Contact the three credit reporting companies (Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union) and place a fraud alert on your report.
- Inform your bank, credit card issuers and other financial institutions that you are a victim of identity theft.
- If you know who stole your information, contact the police and file a report.



Adults are
obsolete
children.

~Dr. Seuss



Preventing Identity Theft -

Ways to combat identity theft:

- Be cautious when providing your Social Security number. Know how and why it will be used.
- Review credit card and bank statements at least monthly for unauthorized transactions.
- Use strong passwords for your home computer and web sites you visit, especially email accounts and financial institutions.
- Leave your Social Security card and passport at home. Never leave them in your purse or wallet unless necessary. Shred sensitive documents and mail containing your name and address.

Coordinating Medicare with Other Insurance

Today, more adults are using other insurance with their Medicare. This creates confusion at the provider's office as well as during the billing process. It is in your best interest to be proactive with your insurance and contact Medicare whenever you add or drop other insurance that works with Medicare so that insurance can be filed and paid correctly. You can do this by contacting the Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center (BCRC) this information:

- Your name
 - The name and address of your plan
 - Your policy number
 - The date coverage was added, changed or stopped, and why
- Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center (BCRC) BCRC Customer Service Representatives are available Monday—Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, except holidays, at toll-free lines: **1-855-798-2627** (TTY/TDD: **1-855-797-2627** for the hearing and speech impaired)

- Tell your doctor and other health care providers about your health or drug coverage changes the next time you get care.
- Tell your insurance company or employer benefits administrator about changes
- Tell your insurance company if you or your spouse's current work status changes or you have changes to your Medicare coverage.
- Tell your employer benefits administrator if you have changes to your health insurance coverage. Insurance companies are required to tell Medicare about insurance coverage they offer people with Medicare to help coordinate benefits, so insurance company or your employer may ask you for your name, date of birth, gender, and Medicare number (located on your red, white, and blue Medicare card) to provide these updates to Medicare.

Turning 65 and on ACA Marketplace Insurance

In most cases, if you are turning 65 and on an ACA Marketplace health insurance plan, you will want to make the transition to Medicare when you first become eligible at age 65. A mismanaged transition to Medicare can result in higher health care costs, gaps in coverage, and even tax penalties

Why switch from ACA to Medicare when the ACA plan is working well?

Let's assume you have a Marketplace plan and are turning 65 sometime this year.

Once you're eligible for Medicare, you'll have an initial enrollment period to sign up for Medicare. For most people, the initial enrollment period starts 3 months before their 65th birthday and ends 3 months after their 65th birthday.

Usually it is to your advantage to sign up for Medicare when you're first eligible because:

- Once your Medicare Part A coverage starts, you won't be able to keep any premium tax credits or other savings for a Marketplace plan based on your income. You'll have to pay full price for the Marketplace plan.
- If you decide later that you want to enroll in Medicare and drop your ACA policy, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Medicare. In addition, you can enroll in Medicare Part B (and Part A if you have to pay a premium for it) only during the Medicare general enrollment period (from January 1 to March 31 each year). Coverage doesn't start until July of that year. This may create a gap in your coverage.
- If you want coverage to supplement Medicare, you can get Medicare supplement (Medigap) insurance. You cannot supplement Medicare with a Marketplace plan.
- It's against the law for someone who knows that you have Medicare to sell you a Marketplace policy. This is true even if you have only Medicare Part A or only Part B.

Canceling your Marketplace plan

Do not cancel your Marketplace plan until your new Medicare insurance is ready to start. Then, to insure that your Marketplace plan is cancelled completely, you will want to:

- Contact your plan directly, using the number on the back of your card (this terminates your insurance)
- Cancel the policy on the Marketplace online at Healthcare.gov or by calling the Marketplace at 1-800-318-2596 (This terminates the premium tax credits that you have been receiving. This is an important step, since you are no longer eligible for the premium tax credits once you are eligible for Medicare, and these credits would have to be paid back at tax time.)

What if your spouse needs to stay on the ACA policy since they are not yet eligible for Medicare?

If your spouse is on your policy and wants to keep the ACA coverage, you can change the policy to remove yourself online at Healthcare.gov. or by calling the Marketplace at 1-800-318-2598. Learn how to remove certain household members from a Marketplace plan.

Future actions by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

CMS just announced a new initiative that addresses this transition and the issues that may arise. It is:

Helping consumers who turn 65 make the transition to Medicare, so that older consumers are served by the program designed for them and their health needs.

This initiative should provide the framework for creating notices and resources to help people through this transition. Making adequate notice and supports critical to promoting the health and financial security of people new to Medicare.

Call VAS at 402-444-6617 four to six months before turning 65, and we can help you with the transition from



Volunteers Assisting Seniors

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 Omaha, NE 68105
 Phone: 402-444-6617
 Fax: 402-546-0886
 E-mail: sfredricks@vie.omhcoxmail.com

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JULY 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2
4 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15 6:30-8:30pm Basic Estate Planning	21
18	19	20	21 6:30-8:30pm New to Medicare Class	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30
31					