

LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE - AN OVERVIEW FROM THE ESTATE PLANNER'S PERSPECTIVE

Presented By:

Denise P. Cambs, Esq.

THE CAMBS LAW FIRM, LLP

3208 West Genesee Street

Syracuse, New York 13219.1339

Phone: (315) 484.1200

Fax: (315) 484.7200

www.cambslaw.com

March 7, 2010

INTRODUCTION

Many individuals are frightened at the prospect of having to themselves pay the ever-increasing costs of nursing home or home care, which can exceed \$90,000+ *per year* in Central New York, depending on the level of long-term care required, and whether that care may be provided at home or in a nursing home setting. Recently, long-term care insurance ("LTCI") has emerged as a popular solution to alleviating individual concerns about privately-paying future long-term care costs. These concerns, however, should not blind individuals to the fact that while LTCI is an appropriate planning alternative for many, the purchase of LTCI itself does not end the need for additional personal planning. This is where, very often, the estate planning attorney comes in - to advise the prospective insured as to the advantages and disadvantages of LTCI, as well as the propriety of purchasing LTCI in a given situation.

Q: *What Is Long-Term Care Insurance (LTCI)?*

A: LTCI, generally, is insurance to provide benefits for **nursing home** or **home care services**. Increasing competition among the various carriers who offer long-term care insurance products for sale in New York State has resulted in more available options and benefits, to enhance insurer flexibility. For example, the more comprehensive LTCI policies may include coverage for non-medical care in an **Assisted Living Facility, respite and/or hospice care**, as well as "**hospital bed-hold days**" which are days in which the patient is in a hospital awaiting transfer to a nursing home.