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ELDER ATTORNEY IN CHARLOTTE OFFERS 3 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IN PRE-PLANNING FOR NURSING HOME CARE

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The decisions regarding placing a family member into a nursing home are some of the toughest that a spouse, child or family member will be faced with. The decision is not just based on finances, but is deeply rooted on emotions... which by the way are not consistent day to day. Unfortunately, many people do not think ahead when it comes to nursing home care (for many very legitimate reasons), and that means that choices may become even harder and potentially more limited. Talking to a Charlotte elder attorney in advance can provide an invaluable opportunity for pre-planning.

Pre-planning means that you as the spouse, child or family member, take the time necessary to make the right choices, and involve your loved one in helping get make the decisions. This is often not the case when a nursing home needs to be found immediately after an illness or injury. Instead of dealing with the stress of being in crisis while trying to make life changing choices, pre-planning with an elder attorney in Charlotte affords the time to get the information you need and to think clearly.

When pre-planning for nursing home care, there are some important questions to ask:

1. **Will a nursing home be the right choice?** There are other options available depending upon the situation, and rather than “settling” for the obvious choice, pre-planning allows you to explore them. It may be possible for your family member to remain at home with a health-care aide or to move into an assisted-living community.
2. **Is it difficult to get a family member into a nursing home?** By pre-planning with an elder care attorney in Charlotte you can familiarize yourself with the process and go through the steps in a logical manner, rather than rushing to find an opening and being overwhelmed. The admission process, negotiating costs, and dealing with an estate all

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take time and energy, and you will likely handle it much better without being in the midst of a crisis.

3. **How do I find the right nursing home?** Your elder care attorney will likely have some great suggestions for you, as will your loved one's doctors, social workers, and other health care professionals. Once you've compiled a list of recommendations, go visit in person and plan to meet with the director. If possible, your family member can be a part of this process, ensuring a better fit and more cooperation later on down the road. I would also suggest making a surprise visit after your initial scheduled visit. Many of us tend to be on our "best behavior" when we know something is going to happen. A surprise visit may afford you a clearer more realistic impression. Also, you should take the time to speak with the residents. Who better to provide you with

Due to the Nursing Home Reform Act, there are a number of duties that the facility will be bound to perform. Working with an experienced elder care attorney in Charlotte, North Carolina will ensure that you know your rights, as well as the responsibilities of both the family and the nursing home you choose.