Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself
Legal Series for Seniors

Avoiding Legal Problems

Plan ahead to Protect yourself with the Power of legal rights & resources and Prevent Problems with the help of People and Paper and Persistence!

Remember the 7Ps!

Plan Ahead A gift to loved ones!
- Make sure your wishes are known in advance. Some ways include:
  - Health Care Power of Attorney
  - Living Will
  - Financial Power of Attorney
  - Last Will & Testament

Protect Yourself You are worth it!
- Watch out for schemes, scams and people who may try to take advantage of you.
- Protect your property, money, personal information and personal safety.

Power Arm yourself with knowledge & skills!
- Know about your legal rights, options and resources. Contact these organizations for help:
  - Your local Legal Aid office
  - Pro Seniors, Inc.
  - Disability Rights Ohio
  - Your local bar association

Prevent Problems The “best” solution!
- It is better to avoid the problem in the first place.
- Use the seven “Ps” to prevent problems.
- If you do have a legal problem, deal with it early. Get help so a small problem doesn’t turn into a big crisis.

People You are not alone!
- Only let people you trust have access to your property, your money or your personal information.
- Build a small support group of people you trust completely who can help you when needed.

Paper Get it in writing!
- Don’t sign anything you don’t understand.
- Get receipts for anything you pay for and copies of anything you sign.
- Keep important papers where you can find them.

Persist Stand up & stick with it!
- Stick up for yourself.
- Ask questions and insist on answers.

Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. is a non-profit law firm serving the civil legal needs of western Ohio’s low-income individuals, families and seniors. This information is not legal advice. It is general information. It is not a substitute for talking to a lawyer about your situation. You may still need help from a lawyer. Find videos, forms, helpful links and more at: www.legalaidline.org. Last updated October 2018

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