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**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR NURSING HOME CARE
Summary of Basic Eligibility Rules as of February 2010**

- The asset limit is \$3,000 for people living in a nursing home.

Counted assets include:

- Cash.
- Savings accounts.
- Checking accounts.
- Certificates of deposit.
- Stocks and bonds.
- Savings certificates.
- Contracts-for-deed for which you hold the title.
- More than one motor vehicle.
- Recreational vehicles such as 4-wheelers, snowmobiles, boats/motors/trailers and campers.
- Land or houses you do not live on or in as your primary homestead

Assets that are not counted include:

- Your home, if you plan to return or if certain relatives live there. (Equity Exclusion Maximum \$506,000)
- Household and personal goods such as clothing, jewelry, furniture, appliance and tools and equipment used in the home.
- One motor vehicle under certain conditions.
- Burial account
- Burial space items.
- Capital and operating assets of a trade or business.

What if I have a spouse in the community?

- Your spouse can keep the greater of \$31,094 or one half of all assets owned by you and your spouse up to \$109,560.
- Any assets of you and your spouse's estate which exceed the nursing home spouse's allowance of \$3,000 and the community spouse's allowance listed above must be spent down to qualify for Medical Assistance.

You or your spouse should request an assessment of your assets from your local county human services agency before or at the time you enter the nursing home. The agency will need you to complete the asset assessment form. It will use this information to estimate the amount of assets your spouse at home can keep. You will want to discuss the best way to arrange your affairs with an experienced Elder Law counsel before the assessment.

Transfers of Assets:

- Before February 8, 2006, you could transfer assets as long as such transfers were made more than 36 months before applying for Medical Assistance (the look-back period). Certain minimum amounts were allowed to be transferred during the look-back period.
- After February 8, 2006, the look-back period is 60 months. There are no longer any minimum allowable amounts which may be transferred during the look-back period under the new rules.