

Nursing home can't use Resident Fund



RENEE MAHLER

question is, is the home entitled to use or collect interest on this money and should I have to pay a fee for this service?

A. The money you have given the nursing home is to only be used by you or your aunt. Only you or your aunt are entitled to withdraw these funds. What I do not know is if your aunt is in a Medicare or Medicaid facility or private nursing home. If she is in a private pay nursing home, the home may keep up to \$200 in a non-interest bearing account. If it is a Medicare/Medicaid facility, the home may hold up to \$50 in a non-interest account. If the funds exceed the amounts, then the monies are to be held in an interest-bearing account. These accounts must be kept separate from the nursing home's funds.

If Medicare or Medicaid is paying for your aunt's care, then there should be no fee for the handling of your aunt's Resident Fund money. If the nursing home is a private-pay facility, then the home is allowed to charge a fee, as long as it is not more than the home's costs or the interest that the funds earn.

Q. For many years my family has taken care of my wife's aunt and uncle. They have spent every holiday with us, and when they needed anything we were the ones they called. They have four children but their children live out of town and the relationship has never been close. Recently our uncle died and

our aunt fell and broke her shoulder. All of a sudden three of their children appeared and informed us that they were taking over, and my wife and our children were no longer welcomed in their parents' home. We feel very badly about not seeing or talking to our aunt and we don't want her to think that we are ignoring her.

A. Obviously you and your family have very real and sincere feelings for your aunt and had them for your uncle as well. I would imagine you not only are upset about not being able to see her, but you must be hurt as well. Your cousins' behavior is strange, to say the least. However, they are your aunt's blood relations and they take precedence over you and your family. It sounds like there might be a legal issue involved. There is really nothing you can do about it except know that through the years you did your best for your aunt and uncle.

Q. Would you please explain the difference between a nursing home and a convalescent home?

A. There is absolutely no difference. Many nursing homes now prefer to call themselves extended care facilities, long term care facilities, health and living centers, care centers, convalescent centers, convalescent homes, or they could be called something else all together. In reality, they are all nursing homes. I guess the industry just thinks the other names sound better.

On Aging columnist Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and a former member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging.

To leave a message for Mahler, from a touch-tone phone, call (213) 953-2047, ext. 1069. Send your questions to her at The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Church offering classes

University of Life, a three-week series of classes, will be held 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 21 and 28 and Feb. 4, at the First United Methodist Church, 1689 W. Maple, Birmingham.

Classes include Adult and Infant CPR; Business Ethics Seminar; Introduction to Film; Introduction to Knitting; Investments and Finance; and Parenting — Temperament, Discipline

and Self-Esteem.

Courses are taught by professionals in the field, both from the church and the community. Cost for the three-week series is \$5 in advance, or \$7 at the door.

Child care is available by prior arrangement. For more information, call the church at (248) 646-1200.

University of Life is a winter tradition at the church.

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Whitmill-Loughrey

Jill T. Grant of Traverse City and Oak R. Whitmill of Cape Coral, Fla., announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Beth Whitmill, to Charles William Loughrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Loughrey of Bloomfield Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Traverse City Senior High School and Michigan State University. She is employed at McGraw-Hill.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Groves High School and Michigan State University. He is a registered landscape architect and the owner of a landscape architect firm.

An August wedding is planned at Christ Church Cranbrook.



Adel-Hollandsworth

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Adel of Beverly Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Robyn L., to Erin Hollandsworth, son of Shirley Sweeney of Weidman, Mich., and Wayne Hollandsworth of Florida.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Groves High School and Michigan State University. She is manager of Frontier Communications in Los Angeles, Calif.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Michigan State University. He is employed in computer-aided design at Dimensional Impressions in Los Angeles.

An October wedding is planned.



Submitting announcements

Residents of the Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield areas should send their engagement, wedding, anniversary or birth information, with or without photograph, to:

Attn: Brides, The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Residents of the Troy and Rochester areas should send information to The Eccentric, 1814 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills 48307.

Residents of the Farmington area should send information to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335.

Preprinted forms that outline the information needed for your engagement or wedding announcement are available at Observer & Eccentric offices.

If you have questions regarding your announcement, call Sue Wills in Birmingham at (248) 901-2560; Debbie Douglas in Rochester at (248) 651-7575, or Katie McManus in Farmington at (248) 477-5460.

For a recorded message with complete information on submitting announcements, call (248) 901-4730 for The Eccentric and (313) 953-2065 for The Observer.

McPharlin-Cosgrove

Margaret Belle of Bloomfield Hills announces the engagement of her daughter, Meredith Lynn McPharlin, to Joseph Paul Cosgrove, son of Robert and Donna Cosgrove of Bloomfield Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Marian High School and Michigan State University and is finishing her MBA from the University of Michigan. She is a sales representative for Imagyn Surgical Technologies.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Brother Rice High School and Ohio Wesleyan University. He is employed by Sierra Systems.

An August wedding is planned at St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills.



St. Owen Single Again features photographer, nature slides

The monthly meeting of St. Owen Single Again will be held at St. Owen Center, 6855 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills. The meeting will feature professional photographer Hal Blatcher presenting a slide program of his nature photos. An

afterglow with music for dancing follows. A \$5 donation is requested at the door.

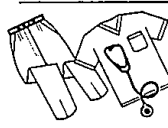
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