



Long Term Care Insurance has become more important than ever to the middle class since President Bush signed the Deficit Reduction Act in February 2006.

Here's why:

- § This new law has essentially ended most Medicaid planning by expanding the Medicaid "look back" period from three years to five years and changing the start date for the penalty period for any transfers, to the day the applicant both applies for Medicaid and is *in* a Nursing Home.
- § This new law seriously penalizes those who give generous gifts, provide money for grandchildren's education or help our family members. The financial record keeping is onerous.

In essence, one would need a crystal ball to know when they would need care to know when the five year look back period was to start. An alternative is, if you are eligible, is to consider Long Term Care Insurance as part of your overall financial plan.

On the positive side, the new law allows for the expansion of Partnership Long Term Care Plans in all states. The partnership is between your state and the insurance carriers that provides that once a policyholder's private benefits are exhausted, she/he would have access to the Medicaid program, and, depending upon the plan selected, all or part of their assets would be protected. New York already offers these plans; Florida has started the process.

Now is the ideal time to explore Long Term Care insurance.

Please visit our website at www.ltcamerica.com. Call us to schedule a free consultation in NY call 631-525-5378, in Florida, call 561-964-9125.