

## TEAM RUSSO

*In Action for You*

### ELDER LAW

Asset Protection  
Medicaid Planning  
Nursing Homes  
Health Care Directives  
Long Term Care Planning  
Veterans Benefits

### SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Needs Trusts  
Guardianships  
Government Benefits

### ESTATE PLANNING

Wills  
Living Trusts  
Safe Trusts  
Durable Powers of Attorney

### TRUST AND ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

Probate  
Estate and Gift Taxes  
Asset Management

### REAL ESTATE

Sale and Purchase of Residences  
Life Estates

*Our Experience is  
Your Protection*

HOME VISITS AVAILABLE

[www.vjrussolaw.com](http://www.vjrussolaw.com)



### VINCENT J. RUSSO & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

has earned the title

#### *"Long Island's Signature*

**Elder Law, Special Needs & Estate Planning Law Firm"**  
following more than twenty years of local and national advocacy for seniors, baby boomers and their families.

Clients know and trust their motto

#### *"Team Russo – In Action for You"*

... a team which includes thirteen attorneys at four locations on Long Island. Establishing a strong relationship with clients is a trademark of the law firm.

Their genuine concern is demonstrated by commitment and ongoing involvement in community-sponsored programs, including:

- *Alzheimer's Association, Long Island Chapter*
- *Arthritis Foundation, Long Island Chapter*
- *United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County*
- *The Theresa Foundation*

**TEAM RUSSO** is a staff of distinguished, experienced and compassionate attorneys who implement a LIFE PLAN designed to serve and protect each client. The law firm continues to implement new programs of awareness and action to meet the growing needs of its clientele.

Westbury  
(516) 683-1717

Lido Beach      Islandia      Woodbury  
(516) 897-7100      (631) 582-1919      (516) 682-8282

## Vincent J. Russo & Associates, P.C.

# GUARDIANSHIPS

*Long Island's Signature*  
**ELDER LAW**  
Special Needs & Estate Planning  
Law Firm

Attorney Advertisement

*For those individuals who do not have advance directives, the inability to make personal and financial decisions can result in the need for a **COURT-APPOINTED** guardian.*

## FINANCIAL DECISIONS

A guardian can make a broad range of financial decisions on behalf of an incapacitated person. The guardian is usually a family member or close friend, who can be given the power to:

- collect and invest the person's assets
- expend assets and income on any of the person's needs
- sell the person's residence
- protect the person's assets in such a way as to maximize government benefits (such as SSI and Medicaid)
- make gifts of the person's assets to his or her loved ones

## HOW TO BECOME A GUARDIAN

Your attorney petitions the appropriate court and asks that the court appoint you (or, if you wish, someone else) as guardian. The court decides whether or not a guardian is needed, who should be appointed, and what financial and/or personal decision making powers the guardian should have. Once appointed and commissioned, the guardian can begin to act on behalf of the incapacitated person.

## PERSONAL DECISIONS

A guardian can also be authorized to make important personal decisions for the incapacitated person regarding routine and major medical and dental treatment; living arrangements; educational and training opportunities; and the application for government benefits including SSI and Medicaid.

## SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS

A guardian can set up a Special Needs Trust which will allow a trustee to hold the person's assets for his or her benefit without compromising Medicaid eligibility. This is a vital planning tool for all incapacitated persons under age 65 who have assets.

## BENEFITS OF GUARDIANSHIP

- Protection of assets from loss or waste
- Access to money to make necessary expenditures
- Investment of the assets according to a prudent investment plan
- Medicaid planning
- Special Needs Trusts
- Sale of residence
- Living arrangements
- Health care decisions
- Tax and estate planning
- Creation of Living Trusts

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## Vincent J. Russo & Associates, P.C.

Attorneys and Counselors at Law

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