

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

## GUARDIANSHIPS

*Long Island's Signature*

**ELDER LAW**

*Special Needs & Estate Planning  
Law Firm*



### 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**

## TEAM RUSSO *In Action for You*

### ELDER LAW

Medicaid Planning  
Nursing Homes  
Health Care Decisions  
Long Term Care Planning  
Asset Protection

### ESTATE PLANNING

Wills  
Living Trusts  
Durable Powers of Attorney

### PLANNING FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Needs Trusts  
Guardianships  
Government Benefits

### TRUST AND ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

Probate  
Estate and Gift Taxes  
Asset Management

### REAL ESTATE

Sale and Purchase of Residences  
Life Estates

*Developing a LIFE PLAN  
is a FAMILY AFFAIR*

HOME VISITS AVAILABLE

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

*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

**Vincent J. Russo**  
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