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PRACTICING EXCLUSIVELY IN:

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SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING

"Plan It Now™" Program Introduces Advance Directives to New Young Adults

Teenagers the country over are now making their final plans for going off to college. But more important than stocking the mini-fridge with diet soda or signing up for the right meal plan is ***signing certain legal documents.***

The first goal of any parent is to raise independent, caring and capable children who become productive contributing members of their greater community. The occurrence of a child's 18th birthday does not suddenly bestow upon them the ability to handle any issue the world can create without the assistance and advice of their parents, no matter how well prepared their parents have made them. With a child's 18th birthday does come the legal right to self-determination and privacy, whether they want it or are ready for it. Most young adults desire to have medical information available to their parents in the case of a catastrophic event that would render the young adults incapable of acting on their own behalf. This requires the execution of certain legal documents, including a Designation of Health Care Surrogate and a HIPAA waiver form designating the parents to access the information or make decisions if the young adult lacks the capacity to do so. There is no requirement that the young adults sign the documents if this is not their desire.

Morris Law Group is launching the Plan it Now™ program as a public service project to educate young adults about the need for advance directive documents and to facilitate the dissemination and use of these documents. We have posted the documents on our website, free of charge, for anyone to download (<http://www.law-morris.com/planitnow.html>). We have made it clear on the website that individuals using these documents should carefully consider who they choose to designate for these important roles. While a parent is the best and most likely choice for many, it is not the best choice for all.

Ellen Morris and Stuart Morris of Morris Law Group have appeared in major media outlets such as *Worth* magazine, the *Sun Sentinel*, the *Daily Business Review* and many others. If you'd like more information on the "Plan It Now™" Program, please call me at 561.750.3850 or email me at ldavis@law-morris.com.

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