
Personal Reflections on the Importance of Legal and Financial Planning

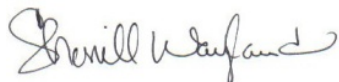
As many of you may know, my father Ron Wayland, passed away in the home of my partner and I on July 10th, while vacationing with my mother. The events that followed provided a great deal of time to reflect on the importance of Legal and Financial planning for the LGBT community.

During this time of loss and grief, my mother was treated with the upmost respect and compassion from emergency personnel, doctors, clergy, funeral home personnel, lawyers, bankers, and accountants. As I stood beside my mother during this time, I could not help but reflect upon my relationship with my life partner Kim and wonder, "When we are faced with this situation, will we be treated with the same respect, compassion, and dignity?" Together for 16 years and legally married in Iowa in 2009, our union is not granted the same protections afforded to my father and mother without additional legal and financial planning.

Legal and financial planning is our responsibility; which will help ensure that our wishes are followed, and the person(s) of our choosing are afforded the legal rights to make decisions on our behalf if we cannot do so for ourselves. SAGE and One Saint Louis have been administering an LGBT Health & Human Services Survey. Preliminary results find that 50% of respondents have not completed any legal and financial planning documents including: wills, living wills, trusts, and power of attorney for health care and financial decisions. Without these documents in place, a partner has no legal rights for hospital visitation, medical and financial decisions, and inheritance. Additionally, another important, yet uncommon planning document is the 'Right of Sepulcher.' This document provides the right to choose and control what will happen to one's body after death. The Power of Attorney of Health and Financial Decisions automatically ends at the time of death. However, one can grant the 'Rights of Sepulcher' to an individual of their choosing through the Power of Attorney planning documents. If the 'Rights of Sepulcher' is not specifically designated within a Power of Attorney, then by law this right is granted to the next of kin or blood relative.

Until LGBT relationships are afforded the same legal and financial rights as heterosexual marriages, it is our responsibility to undertake the needed legal and financial planning to protect our relationships and our wishes. If you need assistance with legal and financial planning, please refer to the SAGE Referral Network at www.SageMetroSTL.org or call the SAGE office, where you will find a list of LGBT friendly and welcoming lawyers and financial planners available to assist you.

In closing, I would like to thank the SAGE Board, community members, friends and family for your support during this time. And a special thank you to everyone who made a donation to SAGE in memory of my father. Sincerely,



SAGE Applauds Recent Sonoma County Settlement, Bringing Justice to an Elder Couple and Promoting Respect and Dignity for all LGBT Older Adults

Led by the [National Center for Lesbian Rights](#), last week's settlement resolved a lawsuit against Sonoma County and provided compensation for the County's discriminatory conduct against an elder gay couple.

[NEW YORK, NY] Last week, Clay Greene and the estate of Harold Scull, Greene's deceased partner of 20 years, reached a settlement resolving their lawsuit against the County of Sonoma, in a case in which the County forcefully separated Greene from his partner of 20 years.

Greene was represented by staff from the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and The Law Office of Anne N. Dennis and Stephen O'Neill and Margaret Flynn of Tarkington, O'Neill, Barrack & Chong.

"We applaud NCLR for its leadership in winning a case that serves as a powerful reminder about the types of legal protections, respect and dignity that all LGBT older adults deserve," said Michael Adams, SAGE's executive director. "While the harm against Clay Greene and Harold Scull is irreparable, this settlement, and the policy changes it compelled, will create long lasting improvements in the lives of LGBT older adults."

According to NCLR, Greene and Scull lived together for 20 years and had executed both mutual powers of attorney for medical and financial decisions and wills naming each other as beneficiaries.

In April 2008, County employees separated the couple after Scull fell outside their shared home. In the next three months, County officials ignored the couple's legal documentation, unlawfully auctioned their possessions, terminated their lease, and forced Greene into an assisted living facility against his will.

The County did not consult Greene in Scull's medical care and prevented the two from seeing one another. In August 2008, before the partners could be reunited, Scull passed away.

"Too often, LGBT older adults are vulnerable to the discrimination of the very institutions that are meant to protect them," said Adams. "This settlement sends a strong message and will help improve services to LGBT elders who rely on the assistance of the Sonoma County Public Guardian's Office."

Greene and Scull's estate will receive \$653,000 to compensate for the damages the couple suffered due to the County's discriminatory and unlawful conduct. In addition, the County has modified a number of policies in its Public Guardian's Office, including requiring County employees to follow protocols before seizing private property, preventing County employees from relocating elders or others against their will, and prohibiting County employees from backdating information in their guardianship database.

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- Gender Justice
- Employment & Legal
- Resources
- Support for Our Families
- And much, much more

For more information got to: www.sageuse.org/conference2010 or email:
conference2010@sageusa.org or call 212-741-2247 x297

Events at SAGE

Location: 2710 South Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63118

Tia Chi—Exercise Class (2nd floor lounge)
Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 10 a.m.-11 a.m. (FREE)

Bridge at Tower Grove Manor (2nd floor lounge)
Date: Every Friday Time: 1 p.m.
Cost .50 cents

SAGE LGBT Monthly Grief Discussion

Date: 3rd Tuesday, 8/17
Time: 6:30 p.m.

SAGE Caregiver Coffee

Dates: 3rd Wednesday, 8/18
Time: 6 p.m.

All discussion groups meet in SAGE office.

Please RSVP for these groups by contacting SAGE at: 314-772-5887
swayland@sagemetrostl.org

Events at the LGBT Community Center

Location: 625 N. Euclid, Suite 420, St. Louis, MO 63108 Phone: 314-367-1166

The Simply Seasoned Social
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Hosted by Sylvia, Mary Ann and C-Note
Every Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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SAGE Care & Prepare Series

Join experts in the field of legal, financial and older adult care and services for this series of panel presentations. This series is designed for older adults, adult children & caregivers to explore the many aspects of aging and services in the community.

September 15th – Legal and Financial Planning -
Topics to include: Wills & Estates, Partnership Agreements, Powers of Attorney, Retirement Planning, Long Term Care Insurance & Life Insurance

September 22nd – Aging in the Community-
Topics to include: Home Health and Companion Services, Retirement Living, Counseling & Geriatric Care Management

Time: 6:30 p.m.

**Location: Tower Grove Manor Retirement Apartments – 2nd Floor Dining Room
2710 South Grand Blvd., St. Louis
MO 63118**

RSVP to swayland@sagemetrostl.org or call 314-772-5887

LGBT Social Groups – Get Involved Today

 <p>Old Lesbians Organizing for Change</p>	<p>www.oloc.org 314-962-2188 or by email:charlotte@oloc.org</p>
 <p>Mature Gay and Bisexual Men's Social Group</p>	<p>www.primetimersstl.org/default.aspx Or call: Missouri: 314-894-6718 Illinois: 618-558-5141</p>
 <p>LGBT & Allied Concert Band</p>	<p>www.bandtogetherstl.com</p>
 <p>Gateway Men's Chorus</p>	<p>www.gatewaymenschorus.org</p>
 <p>St. Louis Women's Chorus</p>	<p>www.charischorus.org/index.html</p>
	<p>www.findmycenter.com/index.html</p>

SAGE Ambassadors Make An Impact!

Online donations may be made at www.SageMetroSTL.org by clicking on the "Donation" tab. You can also fill out and return the form below with your check made payable to SAGE Metro St. Louis:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Anonymous donation: Yes ___ No ___

Mail Form and Donation to:

SAGE Metro St. Louis
Tower Grove Manor, Suite 109
2710 South Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63118

Thank you for your support!

SAGE Metro St. Louis is recognized as a tax exempt, public charity under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code. All donations made to SAGE Metro St. Louis are tax deductible under section 170 of the Code.

SAGE's growth and operations depends of the support of community members like you. Consider becoming SAGE Ambassador by making a contribution today. Your support makes an IMPACT!

Complete the donation form on this page or consider becoming a sustaining donor by completing the online donation form found at:

www.SageMetroSTL.org and clicking on the donation tab.

We appreciate the support provided by SAGE Ambassadors!

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