

ELDER LAW OFFICES

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PLANNING FOR LONG-TERM CARE

The average cost of nursing home care in Maine is around \$7,300 per month.

One year of nursing home care will run over \$84,000, annually.

WHO PAYS FOR NURSING CARE HOME COSTS?

- Self pay 50.7%
- MaineCare 41.5%
- Medicare 1.4%
- Private insurance 0.9%
- Other govt. programs 5.5%

QUALIFYING FOR MEDICAID/MAINECARE COVERAGE

- Applicant must spend available income on nursing care.
- Stay-at-home spouse (community spouse) allowed to keep their own income, plus enough of spouse's income to bring their income to \$1,825 per month (possibly more, if there are excess shelter expenses).
- Applicant may keep just \$10,000 in assets.
- Community spouse may keep \$109,560 in assets.
- Some assets, including home, are excluded.

TRANSFERRING ASSETS TO QUALIFY FOR MAINECARE

- Transfer penalty for transfers made within five years of application (referred to as "look-back period").
- Transfers to spouse are not counted.
- Penalty period calculated by dividing the total amount transferred by the average monthly cost of care (\$7,285).