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**Batavia Office**

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Batavia, NY 14020

**Buffalo Office**

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Buffalo, NY 14202

**Clarence/Williamsville Office**

8207 Main Street • Suite 13  
Williamsville, NY 14221

**Niagara Falls Office**

810 Main Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

**Orchard Park Office**

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Orchard Park, NY 14127

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**STOP ELDER ABUSE SEMINAR**

**STOP ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE WITH GUARDIANSHIPS**

Amherst Center for Senior Services, 370 JJ Audubon Parkway  
on Wednesday May 8, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

St. Francis Park, 5229 South Park Ave, Hamburg  
on Wednesday May 15, 2019 at 1:00 PM.

Attorney Robert Friedman advises families, caregivers, and professionals who work with seniors what elder financial abuse is, how to identify it, and—most importantly—what to do if abuse is suspected. He will explain New York Mental Hygiene Article 81 Guardianship court procedures, alternatives to guardianships, revocation of powers of attorney, how financial institutions prevent and detect abuse, Medicaid Planning, the powers and responsibilities of guardians and how to prevent and report abuse. To register for the free seminars, call 716.631.9999, complete the contact form at WNY-Lawyers.com or email Jessica@LegalSurvival.com. ■

**FREE LEGAL GUIDES**

These legal guides are available for free on WNY-Lawyers.com and LegalSurvival.com:

- ✓ *Executor's Legal Survival Guide*
- ✓ *Checkpoint: A Complete Guide to New York DWI Law*
- ✓ *NY Personal Injury Guide*
- ✓ *2019 Nursing Home Medicaid Guide*
- ✓ *Answers to Your New York Probate & Will Contest Questions* ■

**WE HELP AUTO ACCIDENT VICTIMS**

Consult anytime with local, compassionate and experienced personal injury attorneys that you know and trust.

- ✓ **Experience:** Mike Ranzenhofer has over 38 years of trial experience representing the victims of automobile accidents, dog bites, slip and fall accidents and defective products.
- ✓ **Availability:** We are available seven days a week by telephone at 716.542.5444 or 585.343.0746, text at 716.983.6370 or by email: mranz@legalsurvival.com . We will meet personally with you at your home, the hospital or at one of our seven local offices.
- ✓ **Free Consultation:** We will advise you of your rights at a free consultation. Our initial conversation costs you nothing even if you choose not to have us represent you.
- ✓ **No Fee Guarantee:** You pay no fee unless you win your case. ■



Michael Ranzenhofer

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## PROBATE AVOIDANCE SEMINAR

*"15 Ways to Avoid Probate"* seminars will be presented at the Akron- Newstead Senior Center, 5691 Cummings Road, Akron on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Drawing on over forty years of estate planning experience, Attorney Robert Friedman will explain estate and asset protection planning techniques; the risks and benefits of avoiding probate; the best forms of real estate ownership; the most common estate planning mistakes; recent changes in estate and gift tax laws; the duties of trustees and executors; myths about living trusts; when to update your will; and how to prevent will contests. To register for the free seminars, call 716.631.9999; complete the contact form at [WNY-Lawyers.com](http://WNY-Lawyers.com) or email [Jessica@LegalSurvival.com](mailto:Jessica@LegalSurvival.com). ■

### COLLECTION OF FAMILY MEMBER'S DEBTS PROHIBITED

New York General Business Law amendments effective on March 29, 2019, were originally intended to address the collection of a deceased family member's debts. However, they were drafted more broadly to prohibit principal creditors and debt collection agencies from: (a) making any representation that a person is required to pay the debt of a family member in a way that contravenes the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act; and (b) making any misrepresentation about the family member's obligation to pay such debts. ■

## DO YOU NEED ANY OF THESE LEGAL SERVICES?

Contact us by email or telephone if you need assistance with:

**Accident/Personal Injury** (see page 1).

**Business advice** on protecting company assets, selling or buying a business and minimizing the risk of expensive legal action. Whether you have an established business, or are just starting out, we can help you achieve your goals with succession planning, LLCs, PLLCs, corporations and partnerships.

**Criminal/Traffic/DWI Defense:** We defend clients against misdemeanor and felony criminal charges including assault, shoplifting and welfare fraud.

**Divorce/Custody/Support & Family Law:** Grandparent's rights, prenuptial agreements, name changes and guardianships.

**Employment:** We have obtained unpaid wages and benefits for employees who have been misclassified as independent contractors.

**Estate Planning/Medicaid Planning/Elder Law/**

**Guardianships:** We prepare wills, health care proxies, living wills, life estates, trusts, business succession plans and powers of attorney.

**Estates:** Probate of wills, administration of estates and will contests.

**Fire Company/Fire District Law:** We provide legal services to fire companies, fire departments and fire districts, including advice on : Fire Company and Nonprofit Corporation Governance; Training; Civil Liability; Freedom of Information Law; Contracts; Reporting Requirements; General Operational Management Matters; Fire Station Construction, Remodeling and Financing; Apparatus Acquisition and Financing; Bylaw Review; Standard Operating Procedures; Disciplinary Matters and Hearings; Personnel Policies; Membership Issues and Ethics Compliance.

**Landlord Tenant:** Evictions, leases, and building code violation defense. ■

## CONTACT US 24 HOURS A DAY

Have an urgent, late night legal question? Have you been injured in an accident? Arrested for DWI? Served with a lawsuit summons? We answer our phones 24 hours a day/seven days a week. Additionally you can reach us using the chat service and contact forms on our websites, [WNY-Lawyers.com](http://WNY-Lawyers.com) and [LegalSurvival.com](http://LegalSurvival.com) ■

# THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS

Robert Friedman answers these “12 Most Commonly Questions Asked by Victims of Child Sexual Abuse” at [www.wny-lawyers.com/child-victims-act](http://www.wny-lawyers.com/child-victims-act):

1) How much is my case worth? 2) How much have New York victims recovered in settlements? 3) Is it morally wrong to sue the church for sexual abuse? 4) How long do I have to file a suit in New York? 5) Will I speak directly with an attorney about my case? 6) How much are legal fees? 7) Does Friedman & Ranzenhofer, PC represent any institutions which

have perpetuated sexual abuse? 8) Why do most victims of sexual abuse never file a criminal complaint or civil lawsuit? 9) Why have lawsuits targeted dioceses and religious orders rather than parishes? 10) How common is sexual abuse in the Catholic Church? 11) What are the consequences of sexual abuse? 12) Do I need an attorney in order to receive a settlement?

For a free confidential consultation, call (716) 542-5444 anytime. ■

## CHILD VICTIMS ACT

New York’s Child Victims Act gives expanded rights to survivors of sexual abuse by extending the statute of limitations for bringing both civil and criminal claims against priests, teachers, counselors, and anyone else who has committed sexual abuse. Formerly, those who were sexually abused as children could only bring civil and criminal claims up until the age of 23. Under the new law, victims can bring civil claims up until the age of 55 and criminal claims up until the age of 28. The Child Victim’s Act will also provide all abuse survivors, regardless of their current age, a one-year window from the date of enactment to bring legal action against their abusers. This means that, beginning August 14, 2019, even those that were previously time-barred by the statute of limitations can file claims, even if their abusers have died.

The new law will give trial preference to revived cases. Judges will be required to undergo additional training concerning crimes involving sexual abuse of minors. The Child Victims Act will also treat public and private entities equally by removing current notice of claim provisions for public entities and further clarifying that both entities are subject to the one-year look-back window.

When this year is up on August 14, 2020, however, so is the opportunity to bring certain claims. Furthermore, the one-year window may be significantly shortened if a defendant (such as a diocese or the Boy Scouts) declares bankruptcy. Since your time to file a claim may be limited, it is very important, therefore, to contact us as soon as possible to learn about your options. ■



Robert Friedman

## NURSING HOME MEDICAID SEMINARS

*“Fourteen Ways to Preserve Your Assets with the Medicaid Laws”* will be presented at:

- **Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo**, 2640 N. Forest Rd, Getzville on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 10:30 AM.
- **Senior Health & Fitness Fair- Clarence Town Park Clubhouse**, 10405 Main St, Clarence on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 12 Noon.

Robert Friedman, Attorney will explain how to preserve your assets and plan for incapacity with powers of attorney, health care proxies, living wills, wills, trusts, transferring your home to family members, long term care insurance, prepaid funeral accounts, IRAs, pensions, properly documented gifts, spousal allowances and transfers, caregiver agreements and promissory notes. To register for the free seminars, call 716.631.9999, complete the contact form at [WNY-Lawyers.com](http://WNY-Lawyers.com), or email [Jessica@LegalSurvival.com](mailto:Jessica@LegalSurvival.com). ■

## SAM ALBA APPOINTED TO MEDIA PROFESSIONALS BOARD

Sam Alba has been appointed to the board of directors of the Western New York Media Professionals, Inc. Sam will play a major role in the restoration of the Historic Sattler Broadway Theater built in 1914 by Buffalo’s famous department store owner, John G. Sattler. The theater restoration will be in the center of the revitalization of the East side and a major hub for tourism and youth development. ■



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## ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE GUIDE

Robert Friedman's newly released "*Stop Elder Financial Abuse with NY Guardianships*" legal guide, which is available for free at [www.wny-lawyers.com/2019/03/stop-elder-abuse-guide](http://www.wny-lawyers.com/2019/03/stop-elder-abuse-guide), explains:

- 1. WHAT IS ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE?** • How Prevalent is Elder Financial Abuse? • Who are the Perpetrators of Elder Financial Abuse? • What are the Signs of Financial Abuse? • Investment Fraud and Financial Exploitation Checklist.
- 2. GUARDIANSHIPS FOR INCAPACITATED PERSONS** • Checklist of Initial Considerations • Who is the Guardian? • Who is the Petitioner? • Who Must be Notified? • Who is the Court Evaluator? • What Evidence is Necessary to have a Guardian Appointed? • What are the Guardian's Powers? • What are the Guardian's Responsibilities?
- 3. THE USE OF GUARDIANSHIPS IN MEDICAID PLANNING.**
- 4. ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIPS** • Joint Assets • Powers of Attorney • Living Trusts • Health Care Proxies and Living Wills.
- 5. HOW GUARDIANSHIPS PREVENT ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE** • Signs of Financial Abuse • Powers of Attorney Revoked.
- 6. THE ROLE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** • Bank Employees Help Prevent Elder Financial Exploitation • Suspicious Banking Activity • Regulatory Broker Reforms • The Senior Safe Act.
- 7. HOW TO PREVENT ELDER ABUSE.**
- 8. HOW TO REPORT ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE. ■**

While a great deal of care has been taken to provide accurate and current information, the ideas, suggestions, general principles and conclusions presented in this newsletter are subject to local, state and federal laws and regulations, court cases and any revisions of same. The reader is thus urged to consult legal counsel regarding any points of law – this newsletter should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice.

The purpose of this newsletter is to give the reader a general understanding of the law – not to provide specific advice. Every effort has been made to achieve accuracy. The law constantly changes and is subject to differing interpretations. Always consult with your attorney and act only on his or her advice. Friedman & Ranzenhofer, P.C. shall not be responsible for any damages resulting from any inaccuracy or omission. This newsletter is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought. Certain portions of this newsletter may be applicable only to New York State law. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.