



wherever you live. Partners In Care also has home-health services. Hospice care assists not only the patient but the family as well, helping them to understand the end-of-life process and providing emotional support, as well as comfort care for the patient in their own home.

Partners In Care has an in-patient Hospice House that offers up to five days of respite care if the patient needs more aggressive pain management or if family members need a few days break from caregiving. (See story on new Hospice House, page 1.)

With a wide range of resources and services and a close-knit community, Sisters is one of the best places you can find to live the late years of your life to their fullest.

## Wills and trusts spell out wishes

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

To prepare the legal documents needed for the end of life, John Myers, a Sisters attorney, can offer the guidance needed to prepare a will, or if wanted, to establish a trust. Myers outlined for *The Nugget* the difference between the two instruments used for passing on an inheritance.

In Oregon, if someone dies, their estate goes through the probate court process of transferring their assets. If they have a will, the court looks to the will to see where the assets are supposed to go. If they have no will, the Oregon Statutes, Chapter 112, come into play. Depending on whether the person had children with a surviving spouse, or from another relationship, their surviving spouse is entitled to some and also the children. If there is no surviving spouse or children, then to parents, then siblings, then nieces and nephews, and so on.

Probate can be a good thing because the court is overseeing the transfer of assets to the people you have chosen (with a will) or to the people the state thinks you would choose (without will). The probate process is time consuming (usually between six months to a year) and

expensive (between \$6,000-\$9,000 in attorney fees and court costs). The probate court process is also public; any person can go to the courthouse and see who you left your assets to and how much it was all worth. The people chosen to be in charge will have to work with an attorney through the process.

If you set up a trust, your estate avoids this process and the person you name to be in charge can take over the handling of the assets without any court involvement and the information remains private. It usually takes less time for administration with a trust.

Even if you have few assets, if you want to avoid the probate

process and make it easier on your loved ones, creating a trust can help to achieve this. A trust can also help to plan for incapacity. If you have a trust and something happens to you, leaving you alive but incapacitated, the person you have named as your trustee can manage your assets for you.

Oregon does not allow for holographic wills (handwritten). There is a statute that allows for a handwritten will to stand if proven by clear and convincing evidence that the author intended the writing to be their will. Myers indicated that proving it to be a will is time consuming and expensive and is only intended to be utilized as a last resort.



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### Partners In Care

After nearly 20 years providing inpatient care in a six-bed unit, Partners In Care is constructing a new 12-bed Hospice House on its campus in Bend in order to meet the healthcare needs of a growing population.

Hospice House is designed to care for hospice patients with the most acute end-of-life needs or who will benefit from a short stay to provide respite for family members. The spacious suites will accommodate patients in a homelike setting while they receive 24/7 care.

Hospice House is the only specialty hospital of its kind in Oregon east of the Cascades. Partners In Care serves hundreds of patients each day in their homes and care facilities. Core service lines include Home Health, Transitions, Palliative Care, and Grief Support in addition to Hospice.

Information about the new Hospice House, and a video featuring three patient stories can be viewed at [www.PartnersBend.org/campaign](http://www.PartnersBend.org/campaign).



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Partners In Care

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