

'Do Not Call' Registry

If you wish to prevent unwanted telephone and fax telemarketing calls to your home, you can sign up for free on the National Do Not Call Registry. This is the only place you need to register to protect your number from these unwanted types of calls. To register, call toll-free at: **1-888-382-1222**. Or, on your computer, type in the link:



www.donotcall.gov/register/reg.aspx

Due to a recent change in law in February of 2008, telephone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain on it permanently. Most telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If they do, you can file a complaint by typing in the following link on your computer:

www.donotcall.gov/complaint/complaint-check.aspx

Please keep in mind that certain companies are permitted by law to contact you. These include companies with which you do business, charities, political organizations, and telephone surveyors. For a more complete list, please go to the following link on your computer:

www.donotcall.gov/faq/faqbusiness.aspx



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State Representative Roberta Willis



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Capitol News Update '08

News You Can Use

Automobile Insurance Discounts for People Over the Age of 60

In order to address the problem of rising auto insurance rates, the legislature has made it easier this year for individuals over the age of 60 to be eligible for auto insurance discounts - by completing a safe driver course. The legislature has also eliminated the requirement of an in-person final exam for people using an Internet course. The minimum discount is 5 percent and shall apply to the premium charges for the automobile for at least 24 months. Some insurance companies provide a discount of more than 5 percent. Contact your insurance company for more information. Those interested in an approved course should contact AARP, AAA or the Western Connecticut Driving Institute for details. If you meet the requirements for this premium discount, by law you cannot be denied the minimum discount regardless of your driving history.

Effective Date: October 1, 2008



The CHOICES Program

The CHOICES program in Connecticut is a program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral services, Counseling, and Eligibility Screening. The CHOICES Program provides information to persons age 60 and older as well as to persons with disabilities. It is an excellent source of information regarding senior services, referrals, and preliminary screening offers for more than 20 federal and state benefit programs. To address any problems or concerns with aging issues, call the CHOICES hotline at 1-800-994-9422 and ask to be connected with a counselor in your area.



Support for Grandparents and Other Relative Caregivers

Raising a child is not always an easy task. It can be even more difficult when a child's parents are not in the picture and other relatives, particularly grandparents, are given custodial rights. In an attempt to ease the burden on family members who are given custodial rights over a child, the state will now allow grandparents or other relative caregivers appointed through Superior Court, and who are not receiving subsidized guardianship or foster care payments from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), to apply for grants under the probate-court administered Kinship Fund and the Grandparents and Relatives Respite Fund. Prior to this, only guardians who were appointed through the probate court were allowed to receive financial support.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008



“Money Follows the Person” Program: An Alternative to Living in Nursing Homes

Seniors should have the option to live at home rather than in nursing homes should they so choose. The legislature voted to expand access to the state's home care program known as “**Money Follows the Person.**” This program allows the use of Medicaid funds to provide people with care in their own homes as an alternative to living in nursing homes. Living in one's own home is not only desirable for many, but it can be significantly less expensive than nursing home care. For more information, please contact the Department of Social Services at (860) 424-5396.



Identity Theft Protection

Identity theft has become a very serious problem in the United States. Identity theft can be troublesome to resolve. Victims spend time and money repairing the damage to their credit record. Our vital records in particular reveal numerous details about our lives and are oftentimes necessary in proving our identity. With cases of identity theft on the rise, the legislature reacted this session by requiring that social security numbers of individuals be eliminated from vital records used for public purposes. Social Security numbers for vital records can only be recorded in sections that are deemed necessary to be used for medical, statistical or research purposes.



Questions ~ Concerns? Call State Representative Roberta Willis at 1-800-842-8267.