

Nursing Home Medicaid Basics 2017 updated 1/1/17

- Key Numbers 2017 (as of 1/1/17)
 - \$ 2,000 asset limit for single individual
 - \$ 2,000 asset limit for institutionalized spouse
 - \$120,900 Maximum Community Spouse Resource Allowance (“CSRA”) (without an appeal)
 - \$ 24,180 Minimum Community Spouse Resource Allowance
 - Income allowance for community spouse: \$2002.50 minimum / \$3022.50 maximum (without an appeal)
- Noncountable Assets
 - \$1,500 Burial Account (both spouses)
 - Pre-paid Funeral (both spouses): no limitation on amount
 - \$1,500 Face Value of noncountable life insurance
 - Investment Real Estate (“business property essential to self support”): no limitation on value*
 - Principal Residence: if equity value is less than \$840,000.00 **
 - * Is subject to estate recovery
 - ** Is subject to estate recovery, unless qualifying long term care insurance policy is in place, and applicant indicates no intent to return home.
- “Lookback Period”
 - For all transfers of assets occurring after 2/8/06 = five years
- Disqualification Period
 - For all asset transfers within the five year lookback period
 - \$354.00 per day/\$10,797 per month (average)
 - For transfers pre-2/8/06: commenced on first day of month of transfer (so now all “off radar”)
 - For transfers on or after 2/8/06: commences at time of application, **not** at time of transfer
- A MassHealth Qualified Long Term Care Insurance policy can provide lien protection for principal residence:
 - Cover Nursing Home Care for at least 730 days (2 years)
 - Pay at least \$125.00 per day for Nursing Home care
 - Not require an elimination period of more than 365 days (or a deductible of more than \$54,750)
- Annuities
 - Must be “actuarially sound” (all principal must be returned by end of life expectancy per charts)
 - Must be irrevocable, nontransferable and unassignable
 - * Must be annuitized prior to application
 - * For immediate annuity of an applicant, Commonwealth of Massachusetts must be the primary beneficiary, up to the amount of benefits paid on applicant’s behalf
 - * Annuities of Community Spouse, purchased for eligibility purposes, must now also name the Commonwealth as primary beneficiary, up to the amount of benefits paid on Community Spouse’s behalf

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The above information is meant only to provide general information and should not be considered legal advice.