



*Transferring
wealth & wisdom
from generation
to generation*



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ARE YOU READY FOR A "HEALTHY" HURRICANE EVACUATION?

Is your family ready to leave home on short notice in the event of a hurricane or other emergency? If you are mature in years, a caretaker, pet owner, diabetic, or someone with advanced medical issues, it is time to review or create your personal emergency health care plan. Expect the unexpected and be prepared in the event of an emergency that requires evacuation.

1. Medicine, Doctors, Care Plan, Supplies & Health Care Documents:

It is essential to have a complete list of your medicines as well as your medical providers with contact information. It makes sense to complete a comprehensive list in advance and not while under pressure. Be sure to make a backup copy and store the same list in at least two different locations. Placing information on a portable thumb drive is a great idea.

Next is drafting a letter explaining a total care plan for your personal health and well-being. This will assist you and others to make provisions in an emergency situation (e.g., diabetic insulin treatment). The plan should include all necessary supplies required for your care and enough to last at least a week.

Finally, you should have a readily available sealable waterproof container to hold all of these important documents and supplies. Could you assemble all of this in a few minutes? What if you fell or had an accident, are these instructions and supplies accessible?

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."
—Benjamin Franklin

2. Physical Evacuation Route, Safe Havens, Places with Generators, Health Care Facilities, and Homes of Family & Friends:

Your actual evacuation route and the logistics of where you intend to go for safety is your next challenge. This information is both personal and geographical. What is your backup plan if you cannot drive or ambulate? You need to know where to go and who will be your support system. Call your local Emergency Management in advance to determine which facilities have generators and appropriate accommodations.

3. Fiduciary Responsibility & Caretaker Backup Plan

If you are helping another individual with their health care, then this checklist should be completed for them in addition to for yourself personally. It would be wise to establish a backup support system in case of an unforeseeable event impeding your ability to provide care.

4. Buddy System, Family & Friends:

This may seem redundant to the other topics covered; however, it marks the importance of not only planning ahead, but discussing your plans with family and friends. The good old buddy system from your elementary school days can come in handy when you least expect it.

5. Pets, Healthcare & Backup Plan:

Pets are often considered a part of the family so planning ahead for their needs is important. Determining a destination that will also welcome four legged friends and packing their supplies can be very stressful in an emergency situation. Compiling at least three days of food and having a durable animal carrier readily available is recommended in case of an evacuation.

For additional advice visit FEMA's Ready Program at www.Ready.gov, along with www.Humanesociety.org, and www.petmd.com for pet related tips.

More general information regarding Emergency Health Care Planning is available online at www.hcoem.org, www.Floridadisaster.org, and www.Collierem.org.

Visit www.probate-florida.com to read more about this subject and other estate planning matters.

Ed Wollman is a Florida Bar Board certified Attorney specializing in wills, trusts, and estates with over 26 years of experience practicing in the state of Florida.

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