



October 2017



#### GET IN TOUCH

300 West Wilson Bridge  
Road Suite 250  
Worthington, 43085 | (614)  
471-0085 |



## Welcome to our October newsletter

Welcome to October! As the leaves begin to turn and the harvest moon rises, we've got an excellent newsletter for our clients and referral members.

Articles this month include strong, informational pieces on:

- Performing an annual review on your Medicare options;
- Reversing Medicaid surcharges that can be result if your income changes;
- An expected spike in nursing home costs in 2018; and
- New thinking about disaster preparedness after the recent nursing home tragedy in Florida.

October also is [Down Syndrome Awareness Month](#). For that reason, I'm also including a link to an awesome column by [blogger Kelle Hampton](#).

I don't know Kelle personally but I'm a huge fan. She's a blogger with a deft touch at telling inspiring stories. She's also a mom to a child with Down Syndrome.

Estate planning for parents of children with special needs is one of the things we do at Browning & Meyer, and over the years, my life has been so enriched by getting to know some of these children, adults and families. Again and again, I've been inspired by their joyful stories.

But I can't write about it as well as Kelle Hampton. Few can. So I invite you to check out her great new story yourself, *[I'm With the Band: A Backstage Pass to Down Syndrome Awareness Month](#)*. I'm sure you will enjoy it.

Have a great month and keep in touch with Browning & Meyer Co. LPA through our website, [ElderLaw.US](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). We hope you find this month's newsletter interesting and informative, and as always, invite your feedback. Drop a line to us [here](#).

Best regards,  
**Richard F. Meyer**  
**Browning & Meyer Co., LPA**  
**614.471.0085**



## I'm With the Band: A Backstage Pass to Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Author Kelle Hampton's latest blog post highlights Down Syndrome Awareness Month

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## Now Is the Time to Review Your Medicare Options

Are you happy with your current Medicare plan or plans? Now is the time to think about whether you are in the right plan or whether a new plan could save you money.

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## Nursing Home Costs Rise Sharply in 2017

The median cost of a private nursing home room in the United States has increased to \$97,455 a year, up 5.5 percent from 2016, according to Genworth's 2017 Cost of Care survey.

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## How to Reverse Medicare Surcharges When Your Income Changes

What happens if you are a high-income Medicare beneficiary who is paying a surcharge on your premiums and then your income changes? If your circumstances change, you can reverse those surcharges.

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## Florida Nursing Home Tragedy Causes Rethinking of Disaster Preparedness

The recent tragedy in which 12 Florida nursing home residents died when the facility lost power during Hurricane Irma is causing government officials to rethink disaster planning.

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