



**motion picture
pioneers
assistance
fund**

SOCIAL SERVICES CORNER

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LIFE INSURANCE SETTLEMENT

Question: I am in desperate need of funds to keep my terminally ill husband at home. His life insurance policy is worth \$100,000. I have heard there are companies that will buy his policy and give me money. What can you tell me about these companies?

Answer: You are inquiring about what is called a life insurance settlement — when a beneficiary or policy owner sells the policy to a third party who considers it an investment. The third party continues paying the premiums, then collects the death benefit. People with a high-value policy and a short life expectancy make the best investment. Your goal is to get the maximum cash for your policy with the least cost and hassle.

According to the Life Insurance Settlement Association (LISA), the ideal candidate is 70 years of age or older, with a death benefit of \$250,000 or more. By their report, people have sold their policies for between 7% and 45% of the policy's value. Insurance companies are not fans of life settlement. They would prefer that the owner of the policy let it lapse through non-payment of premiums or sell it back to the insurer for a mere 3-5% of its value.

Here are a few considerations before you sell:

1) Because insurance regulation is a matter of state law, check with your state insurance commissioner's office before engaging in any life settlement.

2) Use a broker to shop your policy around to the highest bidder. Brokers should be LISA members who are licensed and subscribe to an industry code of ethics.

3) Check with a tax professional. The proceeds of the sale of a life insurance policy may be taxable as income or capital gains.

Remember, once you sell, you will not collect any benefit, so it's important to consider your own financial security after your husband is gone.

The LISA Web site, www.thevoiceoftheindustry.com has a list of members in most states. There is also information at www.lifeinsurancesettlementsguide.com and www.MyPolicyOptions.com.

Finally, make sure you have reviewed all your options. If your husband is on Medicare and terminally ill, he probably qualifies for hospice care, the cost of which is primarily covered as a Medicare benefit. Hospice agencies will also have social workers who can help you identify community resources that may help cover other household and care costs.

Sources: www.thevoiceoftheindustry.com; www.lifeinsurancesettlementsguide.com

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A diet is a short period of starvation preceding a gain of five pounds.

— *The Best of the Good Clean Jokes* by Bob Phillips

Laughter is known to boost the immune system, lower blood pressure, burn calories, and release pleasure-inducing chemicals in the brain.

Go Green!

Receive the *Social Services Corner* by email. Call (888) 994-3863, ext. 2370, or email info@wrmail.org.

Do you or someone you know need our assistance? Call toll-free at (888) 994-3863 or visit www.wrpioneers.org to find out more about our assistance programs.



The Motion Picture Pioneers Assistance Fund is a program of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation.



FPO



RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS' MONTH



February is Responsible Pet Owners Month. Americans are devoted to their pets and there is much research showing the health benefits we enjoy by keeping furry, feathered and otherwise dressed companions around. Domesticated animals abound in our culture, from the novel "Old Yeller," the movie "Secretariat," the musical "Cats," and don't forget, Alvin & The Chipmunks. Pets permeate our language: "Curiosity killed the cat." and "You lucky dog!" There is even a growing area of legal study on animal law, as pets move from belongings to best friends.

Responsible pet ownership includes identification and licenses, spaying or neutering and maintaining them in the regular care of a licensed veterinarian. Train them to keep their behavior suited to being around other pets and people. Make sure to keep your pet properly restrained, whether in a cage, in the

yard or on a leash. Never leave your pet in a closed car, even for a minute. People who suspect their pets may outlive them can make provisions, even bequests, for their care.

Play, exercise and interact with your pet frequently. If your pet provides protection, you must protect them as well. Responsible pet ownership means providing a quality of life that keeps them healthy, both physically and emotionally.

If you are struggling to provide good care for your pet, there are resources available. For example, most pet food companies offer special discounts and coupons, so check the pet food packaging for a Web address or phone number. Also, visit www.aspc.org for a free Pet Safety Pack. Go to the Humane Society's Web site at www.humanesociety.org for a list of resources and organizations that can help you care for your pet if you are facing financial hardship.

Source: American Pet Products Association; www.americanpetproducts.org

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MPPAF'S NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Cleaning For A Reason Foundation: www.cleaningforareason.org, (877) 337-3348

This national non-profit provides free professional housecleaning services for qualified women undergoing cancer treatment. The Foundation accepts 50 applications a week, pledging to provide four free housecleaning visits in their service areas. Applicants may check service areas and apply online at the Foundation's Web site.

Federal Trade Commission: www.ftc.gov, (202) 326-2222

This federal agency's mission is to protect consumers from fraudulent or deceptive claims and harmful business practices. Practical information on a variety of topics, such as identity theft, spam, and the National Do Not Call Registry can be found at their Web site.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Live your life so that
whenever you lose,
you are ahead.”

— Will Rogers

To view our entire National
Resource Directory, please visit
www.wrpioneers.org.