

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sally Balch Hurme, J.D., has led the national conversation on many of the legal issues of concern to older people and their families. Whether the issue is how to plan for what comes next, make decisions for others, or avoid fraud, she's been in the forefront. During her almost 25 years with AARP, she advocated on a wide range of issues including financial security, advance care planning, surrogate decision making, consumer fraud, financial exploitation, and elder abuse. Throughout her professional career she has focused on explaining the law so everyone can understand it.

Hurme is quoted frequently in national media, including the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the New York Times, Money, Kiplinger's Retirement Report, CNN.com, NPR, and Fox Business News. She has lectured on elder abuse and guardianship in Australia, Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Moldova, the Netherlands, and Spain. She is in demand as a speaker, having given more than 100 presentations on elder law topics in at least 40 states.

Checklist for Retirement: Your Guide to Happiness, Health, and Purpose is the fourth in the ABA/AARP Checklist series, which includes the bestselling Checklist for My Family: A Guide to My History, Financial Plans, and Final Wishes, Checklist for Family Survivors: A Guide to Practical and Legal Matters When Someone You Love Dies, and Checklist for Family Caregivers: A Guide to Making It Manageable.

For the past two decades, Hurme's volunteer commitment has focused on the rights of adults with diminished capacity and the reform of guardianship policy and procedures. She has served multiple terms on the boards of the National Guardianship Association and the Center for Guardianship Certification, where she has been instrumental in developing standards for guardians and criteria to improve professional competency. She's been an adviser to the Uniform Law Commission in drafting the guardianship jurisdiction act and revising the uniform guardianship act. Hurme is a past chair of the National Guardianship Network, a collaboration of 11 national organizations working to improve guardianship. As a member of U.S. State Department delegation, she participated in the drafting of the Hague International Convention on the Protection of Incapacitated Adults. In 2008, she was honored by the National College of Probate Judges with the William Treat Award for excellence in probate law.

Hurme started her legal career as a partner in a private law firm, gained valuable experience serving older clients as a legal services attorney, and served as a city magistrate in

Alexandria, Virginia. She spent three years as an attorney adviser with the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Intelligence Policy and Review. She then returned to elder law advocacy as an assistant staff attorney with the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging before moving to AARP. Hurme taught elder law as an adjunct professor in elder law at the George Washington University Law School for eight years, honing her ability to explain the law. She is a long-term member of the American Bar Association, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Virginia and District of Columbia bars. Hurme was a member of the Discipline and Ethics Commission of the Certified Financial Planners Board of Standards. She is also vice-chair of the board of governors of Stuart Hall School in Staunton, Virginia.

She received her B.A. from Newcomb College of Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, and received her J.D. cum laude from the Washington College of Law, American University, Washington, D.C. She lives in Alexandria, Virginia, but enjoys getaway time at her farms near Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and Bridgewater, Virginia.