

NEWS RELEASE

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Kansas Collects \$27 Million - Third Volume of Landmark Estate Recovery Primer Released

(WICHITA) – As Medicaid and Medicare costs continue to grow and calls for further reform are made, a comprehensive understanding of estate recovery is necessary for journalists, legislators and citizens alike. The Flint Hills Center for Public Policy provides new resources and information on estate recovery and Medicaid in a landmark, multiple-volume primer.

In "[Volume 3: Estate Recovery in Kansas: 1930s – 2004](#)" authors Roger Van Etten and Brian Vazquez offer a portrait of estate recovery's background in the U.S. In this volume, Van Etten and Vazquez report Kansas collected \$27,640,966 from estates of deceased Medicaid beneficiaries, from 1996 through 2002.

A total of four volumes offer an essential guide to the complicated, convoluted history of estate recovery, examine six decades of estate recovery law in Kansas and explain the details of SB 272. Senate Bill 272 is the recent legislation allowing Kansas to make new claims on assets of individuals who received taxpayer-funded medical assistance.

The authors suggest that recent legislation has altered this legal landscape and created further need for a substantive resource detailing estate recovery's legal status quo. This primer is intended to provide the background, context and data necessary to guide senior citizens, legislators, health care professionals, elder law attorneys and others through this complicated but important policy issue.

"This primer comes at a crucial time," says Flint Hills Center Consumer Driven Health Care director Matthew Hisrich. "With the recent announcement of a special joint legislative committee that intends to make Medicaid reform recommendations for the 2006 Legislature, a full understanding of existing estate recovery laws is vital for all those affected by potential changes."

Primer authors Roger Van Etten and Brian Vazquez are both attorneys and co-administrators of the Estate Recovery Program for the State of Kansas. Roger Van Etten co-authored Senate Bill 272 - Expanded Definition of a Probate Estate and Brian Vazquez authored key sections of SB 272.

The remaining study in the series, "Volume 4: Estate Recovery after Senate Bill 272", is scheduled for release on September 15, 2005.

["Volume 1: Estate Recovery's Roots in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid"](#), ["Volume 2: A National History of Estate Recovery"](#), and other Flint Hills Center materials are available at our website at www.flinthills.org.

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The Flint Hills Center for Public Policy is an independent voice for sound public policy in Kansas. As a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank, the Center provides critical information about policy options to legislators and citizens. For more

information, please visit our web site at www.flinthills.org or contact us at inquiries@flinthills.org or (316) 634-0218.



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