

NEWS RELEASE

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Kansas Long-Term Care Medicaid Recipients Worth \$42 Million *Complete Four Volume 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 four-volume primer, [now available in its entirety online](http://www.flinthills.org) at www.flinthills.org and in print by request.

In "[Volume 4: Estate Recovery after Senate Bill 272](#)", 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 that the potential recovery from medical assistance liens is significant. A 2004 report indicated about 1000 long-term care Medicaid recipients had a total property value exceeding \$42 million, assets medical assistance liens could potentially recover.

"This four-part series covers the history of Medicaid estate recovery nationally and in the State of Kansas," wrote Center for Long-Term Care Reform President Stephen Moses, author of the Primer's preface.

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.

["Volume 1: Estate Recovery's Roots in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid"](#), ["Volume 2: A National History of Estate Recovery"](#), ["Volume 3: Estate Recovery in Kansas: 1930s – 2004"](#), ["Volume 4: Estate Recovery after Senate Bill 272"](#) 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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