



**ABILITIES FIRST**  
ENRICHING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN  
& ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

**MEDIA ALERT**

**May 14, 2015**

*For more information, contact:*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Abilities First Hosts Free Estate Planning and Guardianship Seminar for Families of Persons with Disabilities**

**Poughkeepsie, N.Y.** (May 12, 2015) - Abilities First, Inc., a not-for-profit organization providing a wide range of services to people with disabilities, is presenting a new educational series that will cover topics relevant to families of persons with disabilities, allowing them to take an active role in managing the personal affairs of their loved one. The first seminar in the series will feature an introduction to Estate Planning and Guardianship and is free and open to the public.

The Estate Planning and Guardianship Seminar takes place on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Marist College (3399 North Rd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601) in the Student Center Performing Arts Room 3102. A Spanish interpreter will be on hand at the event.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.      **Estate Planning for Individuals and Families**  
(Wills, Charitable Trusts and Supplemental Needs Trusts)  
Presented By Ellen Baker, Esq., McCabe & Mack LLP

5:15 - 6:30 p.m.      **Guardianship for Adults with Disabilities**  
Presented By Sarah E. Sholes, Esq., Sholes & Miller LLP

To RSVP for this event, please contact Regina Donato at 845.485.9803 x384 or by email at [ReginaDonato@AbilitiesFirstNY.org](mailto:ReginaDonato@AbilitiesFirstNY.org) no later than Monday, May 18. Para Espanol Beatriz Fornells at 845.485.9803 x248 or [BeaFornells@AbilitiesFirstNY.org](mailto:BeaFornells@AbilitiesFirstNY.org).

The Estate Planning and Guardianship Seminar is sponsored by MassMutual Albany, Apple Valley Advisors, and Mobile Life Support Services.

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**About Abilities First**

Founded in 1962, Abilities First is a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of the community, as well as those with developmental disabilities, from pre-school through adulthood. Abilities First has had a long-term commitment of providing a cohesive culture of compassion, empowerment and respect for people with a variety of disabilities through educational,

vocational and habilitation services. It presently serves over 1,500 children and adults throughout the Hudson Valley region of New York State. For more information, visit [www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org](http://www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc](http://www.facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc) and [@AbilitiesF](https://twitter.com/AbilitiesF) on Twitter.

**About Sarah E. Sholes, Esq.**

Sarah E. Sholes, Esq. is a graduate of the University of Buffalo Law School and has been practicing law for over thirty years, focusing primarily on health law litigation. Sholes' experience encompasses all aspects of the healthcare industry including medical malpractice and long term care defense, Mental Hygiene Law related hearings and guardianship matters.

**About Ellen Baker, Esq.**

A graduate of Albany Law School of Union University, Ellen L. Baker, Esq. specializes in Estate Planning, Estate and Trust Administration and Elder Law. Baker is a partner at McCabe & Mack LLP and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Dutchess Community College Foundation and a Lifetime Honorary Member of the Anderson Center for Autism/Anderson Center.