

Fa m i l y F o r u m ©

A key to success is knowledge, education and communication

It seems that most families do not have a plan for the future. Especially when it comes to finances, disabilities and death. Most children do not want to talk to mom and dad about their finances, their potential medical care and their eventual death.

We believe that a family meeting is critical to the long term peace and contentment of family relations. This is verified by a study on long term care conducted by the *Henry J. Kaiser Foundation*. It found that:

“Even among the most severely disabled older persons living in the community, about half rely solely on family members and other informal help, **often resulting in great strain for the family caregivers.**”

Long-Term Care: Medicaid's Role and Challenges (publication #2172) The Henry J. Kaiser Foundation November, 1999

This is one of the reason why conducting a family meeting before a crisis arises is critical. It can help prevent much strain and provide peace of mind for all family members.

We realize that each and every family situation is unique. There may be relation and communication barriers which have to be overcome. Perhaps there is only one or two of the children that will take the lead in overseeing and maintaining the family plan. However, we will work diligently to ensure that all family members make a contribution to the plans success.

The family meeting can take place in your home or at our offices. Prior to the family meeting we would discuss all details in a private meeting.

We serve as a moderator and help to establish a written plan which serves as a road map for, if, and when the family must work together to maintain and settle mom and dads affairs.

Family Forum Outline

I – Mom and Dads current situation

A – Physically

- a) mental
- b) physical

B – Mobility

- a) ability to drive
- b) drivers license

C – Financially (based on conformability)

- a) ability to maintain lifestyle
- b) how long current assets will last
- c) potential future help required

II – Future needs physically

A – Ability to stay at home

- a) who will help (child)
- b) who will be primarily responsible
- c) schedule for help
- d) if hire help how will it be paid for
- e) at what point decide to move out of home
- f) where will you move

B – Mobility

- a) if cannot drive how get around
- b) how to manage stairs

C – Legal documents

- a) Living Will / health proxy / 5 Wishes etc.
 - 1) who will be the health care agent

III – Future need financially

A – Will assets / income last

- a) source of income and stability
- b) if additional income needed where come from how secure

B – Asset protection

- a) liquid assets
- b) investments
- c) home
- d) qualified assets and impact to heirs

C – Legal documents and appointments

- a) Power of attorney
 - 1) who will be the agent
- b) Trust
 - 2) who will be trustee
- c) Will
 - 1) who will be executor / executrix