

Aging Parents and Role Reversal

This is the day you thought would never happen. Your roles in life are reversing. You're trying to make decisions for yourself and your Aging Parent. What will be best for them without drastically altering your life? How do you keep up the pace and ultimately please everyone around you? You are not alone in life, you have a family, significant other, a career to think about. You want to balance everything to keep everyone happy and life as normal as possible. Think again! Those once a week visits or daily phone calls aren't enough anymore. Your parent needs care, the real kind.

The care includes making sure they eat, that they take their meds, that their money isn't being floundered away on TV shopping. You have siblings that think Assisted Living or Nursing Facilities are awful and they don't want to put Mom or Dad in one even though they also don't want to help out. How do you cope? How do you deal with this situation without alienating every member of your family?

First, understand, it's not about you. What I mean by that statement is that it is not about guilt and what some think is the "Right thing to do". It's not about hanging on to someone that they used to be. They are an elderly person in need of constant care and attention. If you need a dose of growing up, this situation will make it happen whether you're ready or not!

Start with their doctor. Have an appointment to discuss the faltering health of your beloved parent. You can also check into the hospital that their health care is associated. Every hospital has an elder care group of some type. The medical coverage will also have affiliations with elder sourcing. Between the doctor and the medical coverage group, you may be able to determine the types of help and living

style your parents' current status requires. Keep asking until you have the best situation for all concerned.

It may be as simple as an Aide visiting once or twice a day to help with showering, dressing, meals, and meds. Their health may need more than that and the visiting nurse or doctor's office is the place to apply the concern. The best word to learn to help an elder parent is the same as if your infant child were being cared for and that is SAFETY. If safety is not at the level necessary, keep pushing until you get the help you need. Keep on insisting on the area of SAFETY.

It may take you time to uncover everything available to your parent to help with this care process but trust me, it will be worth it in the many years' elder care can stretch out to be. It is best to discuss with them all their health, medical, financial, and personal situations before that day arrives.

When they are older the best thing you can give them is you. Spend quality time instead of stress time. Have them over for a day and dinner instead of needing to pawn them off on someone else. The resentment builds if you do this alone and there are many really good care facilities to take that burden off your shoulders.

Safety and honesty are what make those later years a good memory!

We are here to help, contact us now to schedule a free consultation with one of our senior care professionals.

Call: (203) 927-7543