

Caring for Aging Parents: Asking Questions Can  
Help You Help Them Navigate Around the Bumps in the Road  
By Christine Vanderford, Esq.

Most adults will witness life slip away from older loved ones. Without proper planning, the circumstances around that loss can be filled with complications and conflict.

Adult children should establish an open dialogue and ask whether their aging parents have recently executed a last will and testament, powers of attorney documents, and a living will. If parents have accumulated assets over their lifetime, wealth transfer strategies may be necessary to take advantage of tax planning and charitable intentions. Children should also help their parents understand what funds are necessary for long-term health care and how to plan in advance for that time in their lives.

Children must be respectful and thoughtful so as to not "take over." By understanding the types of decisions parents make, children can help protect their parents when they need it most.

Adult children can still learn from their aging parents. By working together, they ensure that the older generation continues to live a life of dignity and grace, feeling secure that together they can handle any bump in the road ahead.

Attorney Christine Vanderford enjoys working with generations of families in the areas of estate planning and elder care, promoting control, communication, and efficiency in estate settlement. For your free estate planning consultation, contact Christine's office at 421-4646.

Information presented here has been done so for purposes of providing general information only. Any individual or family needing legal advice shall seek the services of an experienced estate planning and elder care attorney.