

Press Release

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New Survey of Aging Experts Gives Top 5 Tips for Avoiding Family Feud when Caring for Aging Parents

Georgetown, IL – Linda Brown of Family Care Management in Georgetown participated in a survey conducted by the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM) of 335 geriatric care managers across the country on the topic of “How to avoid a major family feud when dealing with the sensitive issue of caring for your aging parent.”

Here are the top five tips identified by these aging experts in the survey (along with the percentage of survey respondents selecting each option):

1. Give all family members the opportunity to voice their concerns, questions, and ideas. (81.5%).
2. Hold a family meeting (either in person, on Skype, or by phone) to plan for emergencies or the future. Using an objective facilitator can be helpful. (78.3%).
3. Identify areas of agreement (i.e., areas of common concerns, desire for parent to age in place, safety) and disagreement (i.e., need for caregivers, who will be the caregivers, staying at home or moving to a care facility) among family members. (75.6%).
4. Keep lines of communication open. (71.4%).
5. Identify the roles each family member will play (i.e., driving, cooking, live-in, financial support, spokesperson, errands, housecleaning, gardening, outings, etc.). (69.6%).

NAPGCM conducted the survey of their members from May 16-20, 2013 as part of National Geriatric Care Manager Month – an effort designed to educate the public about the issues facing older adults and the role of caregivers in supporting them.

“Geriatric Care Managers work with older adults and their families on a daily basis. A top issue we see is family tensions that develop, and then intensify, when there is a lack open and regular communication within the family,” said NAPGCM President Julie Gray. “It is really important to keep the lines of communication open – when it stops many problems develop for aging family members and those they love,” she added.

“It is also very helpful for adult children to establish clear division of responsibilities – Who is going to take Mom to the doctor? When will we visit her? Who can regularly buy food? Or should we rotate that responsibility? – for all the areas an aging family member will need support,” Ms. Gray also said.

Linda Brown, a business owner of Family Care Management in Georgetown, IL since 2010, has been a geriatric care manager for a number of years and focuses her practice on Geriatric Care Management. Brown has been a member of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM) since 2010.

About NAPGCM

The National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM) was formed in 1985 to advance dignified care for older adults and their families. Geriatric Care Managers are professionals who have

extensive training and experience working with older people, people with disabilities and families who need assistance with caregiving issues. They assist older adults who wish to remain in their homes, or can help families in the search for a suitable nursing home placement or extended care if the need occurs. The practice of geriatric care management and the role of care providers have captured a national spotlight, as generations of Baby Boomers age in the United States and abroad. For more information or to access a nationwide directory of professional geriatric care managers, please visit www.caremanager.org

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