



Five Reasons to Call a Financial Planner in the Care of a Senior

Those in their working years commonly turn to financial planners for help with planning for children's education or saving for retirement. As more and more people face extended periods of caring for aging parents, the financial planner's holistic and professional approach is helpful to ease the stress of often unplanned-for emergent needs. In particular, the goal of the Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) licensee is to apply their professional training and experience to solving seniors' financial challenges, and arrange for the best financial outcome given the seniors' unique situations.

In clients' retirement years, the CFP® can help them manage and preserve their wealth throughout their anticipated lifetimes. Older clients often have concerns about maintaining sufficient cash-flow, reallocating their investment portfolio, and evaluating the long-term financial impact of their housing arrangement.

Many situations can create a need for the Certified Financial Planner's problem solving skills. Here are five examples of scenarios:

1. When the senior has received a significant sum due to inheritance, marriage dissolution, death of spouse (insurance proceeds, retirement accounts), or the sale of their home or business interest. A review of their existing plan is wise, to determine how to prudently allocate the new resources. These new funds may be essential to maintain their standard of living in retirement, and/or may be earmarked for later transfer to heirs.
2. When family members are taken by surprise by a sudden event in their aging loved one's life, such as a hospitalization because of illness or injury. Suddenly, there are pressing deadlines for significant decisions. Earlier financial consultation and anticipation of possible scenarios can ease these transitions, but a CFP® can also help in a crisis.
3. When an elderly man or woman is alone after the death of their spouse, and needs to reevaluate their financial situation. Surviving widows are especially challenged, as they can live an additional twenty or more years. Inflation alone challenges their financial resources: the cost of living can double in that period (purchasing power is halved). A financial review and plan should be a high priority for surviving spouses.
4. When there is a large disparity in the ages of a couple, particular issues arise. A surviving, much-younger wife may have one or more minor children to provide for in addition to herself. Ideally, the couple has anticipated this, and a safety net of life insurance and other financial resources and legal instruments has been created.
5. When adult children will be financially responsible for their aging parents' care. The planner works in close collaboration with the client's attorney, accountant, mortgage specialist, and other senior service providers to develop a long-range plan.

Fee-based planners can make a real difference in the lives of seniors and their families. Finances can absolutely determine the course of retirement and the level of care one can receive. Get professional help to know how to make your resources last for you.

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