



## When Alzheimer's and Dementia Play a Part in the Senior's Home Sale

Mr. Ashland had led a successful life as a business owner, had been happily married for over sixty years, and had three generations of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who loved him as the patriarch and pillar of the family.

But now, things had changed. Sitting at the table where the home sale documents were being signed, he did not understand what was going on. "Whose house are we selling?" he asked repeatedly. "What are we selling it for?" Though he had just moved out of his home, he could not remember it. With his wife and daughter at his side, gently explaining the events, he was surrounded with care. But he was clearly frustrated that he wasn't in control of what seemed to be an enormous decision.

Miles away, Mr. Kaller leaned back in his recliner, scowling at the strangers in his home. His niece had arranged for buyers to come who were interested in purchasing the Kallers' home, but he wanted them to leave. Across the living room, his wife reassured him that the sale was necessary, as she could no longer care for him alone. Repeatedly, he forgot and demanded an explanation of what was going on, and grew increasingly agitated.

As seniors try to remain in their homes as long as possible, it is a common reality that the sale of the home is often postponed to a time when the senior homeowner is suffering from dementia. Caring for a senior with dementia is a responsibility that requires tremendous financial, physical, and emotional resources. Add to this the normal pressures of a home sale, and it is no wonder why it feels like an insurmountable challenge.

Here are a couple of tips that may assist a family through this kind of situation:

**Whenever possible, arrange to move the senior who has dementia into their new home before beginning the home sale process.** Allow the senior to leave the home with everything in place as was familiar and comforting to him or her, before the cleaning, sorting, packing, repairs, updates, and furniture move takes place.

If financial constraints require the home to be sold before a care community can be afforded, consider temporarily moving the senior **into the home of a family member** or loved one during the sale. Though this is not ideal, it may still be easier than the daily confusion and trauma for the senior of living through the home sale first-hand.

If the senior must live in the home while it is being sold, with no other options, **arrange regular outings to occur** during which time the bulk of work can take place. A long drive, a leisurely lunch away, or a visit to a friend's home can give family and professionals valuable time to make progress in the preparations and sale of the home.

SASH has many options of service for families who must sell their senior loved one's home, even when issues are present such as dementia or Alzheimer's. With years of experience, we offer dignified and simple solutions that can ease the process for everyone. Call us to find out how we can help!

By Rebecca Bomann, CEO/Founder of SASH Senior Home Sale Services. © 2012  
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