



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 family nearby who loved him.

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 frustrated that he didn't understand what seemed to be an enormous decision.

Miles away, Mr. Kaller sat in his recliner, scowling at the strangers in his home. His niece had arranged for real estate brokers to visit the home, but he wanted them to leave. Sitting next to him, his wife reassured him that the sale was necessary, as she could no longer care for him. Repeatedly, he demanded an explanation of what was going on, and grew increasingly agitated.

As seniors try to remain in their home as long as possible, it is common for the home sale to be postponed again and again, and eventually dementia begins its course. Caring for a senior with dementia is a responsibility that requires tremendous financial, physical, and emotional resources. In these circumstances, the normal pressures of a home sale feel 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 moving and home sale process. Allow the senior to leave the home while everything is still familiar and comforting, before any cleaning, sorting, packing, repairs, updates, or 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, disruption, 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!

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