

Home Safety for Aging Parents

Many seniors wish to stay in their home as they get older, and as the child of an aging parent, this could be a good time for you to see what you can do to help make this happen without making your parents feel they are losing control.



On your next visit to your parents, if they have stairs to navigate, see how well they climb up or down them and look for handprint stains on the wall, which might indicate they are leaning on them for support. Falls are the leading cause of hospitalization among senior citizens. Check the bathroom. Are there grab bars in place or a non-slip mat in the tub? Items such as these can make a bathroom safer for a parent, who is having difficulty getting into or out of showers and tubs. If you have siblings, get them involved and have a discussion regarding services that each of you may be able to provide on a regular basis such as yard work, transportation to shopping and medical appointments, and possibly contributing money toward any repairs or modifications that could be made to the home.

Once this step has been taken, you and your siblings could plan a visit with your parents to ask what you can do to help. You could begin a conversation reminiscing about the house and sharing some fond memories of family events before discussing some of the physical and financial challenges they could face by staying in their home.

If you need advice or have questions regarding elder law issues, contact Mary Ann Jacobs, Esq. at majacobs@ritter-randolph.com.