



# Eldercaring Coordination



**Helping families reduce conflict while enhancing the quality of life of their aging loved one**

**Are you hoping that your last years are full of love, comfort and harmony, instead of feeling in the middle of a tug-of-war?**

**Wouldn't you wish that for every family?**

Eldercaring Coordination reduces conflict among family members so they can work together more productively and focus on the aging person's care.

**Eldercaring Coordination can help you when your aging loved one and your family most need peace!**

- Manage high conflict family dynamics
- Support the aging person's self-determination to the extent possible
- Promote safety by monitoring at-risk situations
- Develop a support system for the aging person and family

# Picture a compassionate court-alternative response to family conflict regarding an aging loved one.

## A family would benefit from Eldercaring Coordination when there are:

- Elder isolated; family member(s) or guardian restricting information about elder
- Family arguing about elder's care, safety, capacity, guardianship, or use of elder's assets
- Report(s) to Adult Protective Services involving family conflict or miscare
- Mediation ineffective or impasse
- Multiple motions or reopened cases seeking micromanagement of elder's care

---

Guardians, attorneys, Adult Protective Services, and other professionals can refer older adults and family members for eldercaring coordination. Court orders may be required to initiate the process in some locations. A court's order to participate provides accountability for family members to care for their ageing loved one and emphasizes the importance of family members learning to address concerns more cooperatively, saving time and resources for the family, the court, and the community-at-large.



“Eldercaring Coordination maintains the focus of the family on the aging person rather than their disputes.”

– Florida Attorney





# Eldercaring Coordination

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## WHAT IS ELDERCARING COORDINATION?

Eldercaring coordination is a court-ordered dispute resolution process for aging persons, their families, and legally authorized decision-maker(s) to address conflict over non-legal issues that may impede the care and safety of the aging loved one.

## WHAT DOES AN ELDERCARING COORDINATOR (EC) DO?

- Enables more effective communication, negotiation and problem-solving skills
- Offers education about care resources
- Facilitates the creation and implementation of an aging person's care plan
- Recommends strategies to enhance communication and collaboration with focus on the older adult
- Makes procedural or other non-substantive decisions as authorized by the parties or the court order

An EC is highly trained and experienced conflict resolution specialist that helps participants focus on the aging person, rather than past resentments, to improve the quality of life of their aging loved one. As high conflict situations and adversarial actions diminish, the family begins to work together and with appropriate experts to meet the needs of the aging person.

## WHO PAYS FOR THE WORK OF THE EC?

The family and older adult share the cost of the EC as allocated by the Court, reducing time and money spent on non-legal issues compared to litigation costs. Attorneys continue to advocate in court on legal issues as necessary. Limited grants and scholarships may be available to defray a portion of EC's fees.

## HOW OFTEN DO PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS MEET WITH THE EC?

An EC remains available for up to two years to assist with the transitions experienced by the older adult, without delays and the lack of privacy experienced in court. Meetings are scheduled according to the needs of each family and decrease in frequency as communication improves and they can collaborate in well-informed decision making.

---

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE ACR/FLAFCC ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE ON ELDERCARING COORDINATION:**

**Linda Fieldstone, M.ED,**  
LindaFieldstone@outlook.com

**Sue Bronson, LCSW**  
sbronson@wi.rr.com

**Judge Michelle Morley**  
Mmorley@circuit5.org