

**Family conflict
regarding ageing
loved ones
is an issue
without borders**



ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE ON ELDERCARING COORDINATION

Eldercaring coordination . . . a dispute resolution process for high conflict families that turn to the court for decisions regarding the care and safety of ageing persons.

Eldercaring coordination can:

Save money and time –

- Fees are shared instead of incurring individual court expenses
- Nonlegal issues resolve without waiting for court hearings

Decrease family conflict –

- Solution focus emphasizes strengths, not blame
- Family decision-making centers on the ageing person rather than adversarial actions

Meet the needs of ageing persons and their families –

- Family privacy and ageing person's dignity are preserved
- Stigma of "incapacity" is avoided when family members work together to provide care of ageing loved ones

**Dedicated to expanding
worldwide the reach of
Eldercaring Coordination**

**– a compassionate,
court -alternative process that
helps families reduce conflict
while enhancing the safety,
autonomy and quality of life of
their ageing loved ones**

ELDERCARINGCOORDINATIONFL.ORG

The Eldercaring Coordination Initiative is devoted to providing best practices, training and research that helps courts and communities reduce family conflict about care and safety of their ageing loved ones. The work of the Initiative:

- Expands availability of **eldercaring coordination** through existing and new Pilot Sites
- Provides continuous support for Eldercaring Coordinators, Pilot Site Administrators, Judges, Magistrates and Hearing Officers
- Trains Eldercaring Coordinators according to the Association for Conflict Resolution's Guidelines for Eldercaring Coordinators Training Protocols

Eldercaring coordination is the only dispute resolution process developed specifically to address the unique needs of high conflict families caring for an ageing loved one.



- Provides education about eldercaring coordination to the public and professionals
- Improves decision-making outcomes of family and legally authorized decision-makers by focusing on the needs, voice and safety of ageing persons
- Conserves judicial time, optimizing community supports to address non-legal issues
- Supports research to enhance the benefits of eldercaring coordination
- Encourages collaborations within court systems and communities to support eldercaring coordination

Families become better role models for the next generation when eldercaring coordination teaches them the skills to cooperatively resolve disputes and make decisions that respect the dignity, safety and autonomy of their ageing loved ones.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN STARTING A PILOT SITE OR OBTAINING MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE ELDERCARING COORDINATION INITIATIVE CO-CHAIRS:



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***“Eldercaring
Coordination
saved that
man’s life!”***

– Florida Judge

ASSOCIATION FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION (ACR) ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE ON ELDERCARING COORDINATION

In a ground-breaking effort to improve the lives of ageing persons and families involved in high conflict litigation, the ACR Task Force, composed of twenty US/Canadian organizations, collaborated with the twenty statewide organizations in the Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Task Force to develop ***eldercaring coordination***, “a **dispute resolution option specifically for high conflict cases involving issues related to the care and needs of ageing persons.**”

Eldercaring Coordination complements and does not replace other services such as provision of legal advice and representation; financial guidance; individual and family therapy; medical, psychological or psychiatric evaluation and mediation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Eldercaring Coordination?

Eldercaring coordination is a court-ordered process for ageing persons and their families in high conflict situations. Highly qualified and trained conflict resolution specialists called Eldercaring Coordinators:

- Enable more effective communication, negotiation and problem-solving skills;
- Offer education about care resources for ageing persons;
- Facilitate the creation and implementation of an ageing person’s care plan;
- Recommend how to resolve non-legal conflict; and
- Make decisions within the scope of a court order or with the parties’ prior approval.

Why is eldercaring coordination court-ordered?

A court orders eldercaring coordination when it wants to ensure an ageing person is safe and well cared for but believes the family conflicts may be jeopardizing those goals. Families identified for the process may have a difficult time agreeing to anything, let alone a dispute resolution process. The court’s order to participate in eldercaring coordination gives those families a way to resolve disputes, ensures family members know the importance of working together and provides accountability for court-ordered participants in caring for the ageing person.

What is an Eldercaring Coordination Pilot Site?

A Pilot Site is where one judge or judges in a specific circuit, district or county have the goal of referring at least six families to eldercaring coordination OR where a group of attorneys agree to refer at least six cases to eldercaring coordination through an agreed order.

What about research?

The development of Eldercaring Coordination is based on research about trauma-informed, person-centered care; dispute resolution; court processes; and family conflict and its intergenerational effects. An independent research team at Virginia Tech University led by Pamela Teaster, Ph.D., Director Center for Gerontology, and Megan Dolbin-MacNab, Ph.D., Director of the Doctoral Program in Marriage and Family Therapy, are currently studying the process to enhance eldercaring coordination as it progresses. This will ensure the development of the most promising practices to achieve the greatest benefits from the process.

Why is this important to you?

Eldercaring coordination is the only dispute resolution process developed specifically to address the unique issues of high conflict families caring for an ageing loved one. Eldercaring coordination can help a family embrace the last years of their ageing loved one's life instead of being mired in heartbreaking conflict that results when families fail to develop a support system at that crucial time. The impact of the growing ageing population on court systems will be enormous, straining already limited budgets and resources. Eldercaring coordination can free courts from micromanaging non-legal issues about an ageing person's care by providing families with a more effective, less intrusive alternative for conflict management. When people agree to cooperatively resolve their issues rather than having a court decision imposed upon them, there is a better chance they will implement their agreements; this saves time and resources for the family, the court and the community-at-large.

Helping the greatest
wish of ageing persons
come true:

***"All I really
want is for my
family to get
along!"***

How can you support the Eldercaring Coordination Initiative?

With the goal of making eldercaring coordination accessible to all ageing persons and families in conflict, the Eldercaring Coordination Initiative needs support to:

- Provide training to increase the numbers of Eldercaring Coordinators and Pilot Sites;
- Produce educational videos for courts, professionals, participants and the public;
- Promote research to enhance the development of eldercaring coordination and inform best practices;
- Develop a National Virtual Center for Eldercaring Coordination;
- Hire a Program Coordinator; and
- Provide resources for indigent families to participate in eldercaring coordination.

If you can help, please contact Development Chair Marta Alfonso, or Linda Fieldstone or Sue Bronson.



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