Talking With a Parent About Their Home

A One-Page Family Guide

Start with how your parent wants to live, not what they should give up. Pick one or two of these, keep the first talk short, and let it end with “let’s talk again.”

1. **“What do you love most about living here?”** Then ask: “What do you want to make sure you keep, wherever you live?”
2. **“What’s gotten harder around the house lately?”** Then ask: “What would make that easier?”
3. **“How do you picture the next five or ten years?”** Then ask: “Where do you see yourself?”
4. **“What would help you stay here comfortably?”** Then ask: “Is there anything you’d like me to look into for you?”
5. **“Would it help to look at the options together, just so we all know what they are?”** Then ask: “Who else would you like to be part of that conversation?”

A few things that help

Choose a calm time with no deadline. Listen more than you talk. Ask your parent which family members they’d like included before you share what you hear. If the talk gets tense, it’s fine to stop and pick it up another day. This can take multiple conversations over a period of time.

Write down what you hear

Question	What they said
What they love most about the house	
What’s gotten harder	
What they want to keep, wherever they live	
Who they want involved	
What we’ll talk about next	

Who can help when you’re ready

A move manager, an estate sale company, a mover and an elder law attorney can each take a piece off your plate, and a CPA is the right person for tax questions. I can provide recommendations for each and help you coordinate them.

Ryan Breeden, REALTOR with Long & Foster and a Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES). Call or text me at 443-896-6081 or email me at rbreeden1@gmail.com.