

JUNO CONNECTION



CHARMAINE TEODORO

# Why aging at home is an elderly senior's wish

ine dilemma for adults caring for a parent who's recovering from an illness and confronting old age.

Now put yourself in their shoes and ask yourself these questions: Where can they live where they would feel most comfortable? Where would they feel most at ease all the time? What type of environment would keep them relaxed? Where can they age without the bother of other people or the reality of monotonous activities imposed by people? And last, what is that one place on earth where you think their heart is, and some of their most important memories have been made?

Do you know the answer? You may have guessed it already. That place is called home.

In America today, more than

or regulations they have to follow. There are no activities they would have to participate in even if it doesn't pique their interest, and there are no other people (unless they choose to) to live with and deal with. An aging person's home is the most comfortable place he/she can be, because there's practically no adjustment necessary to live there. They have mastered the place and may even have some of the greatest memories that would only instill good thoughts and great feelings. When their capacities are becoming more limited, they would at least be able to stay in a place they can call their own.

**Sense of independence**  
The fact that they have a choice of where to live instills that sense of independence in them. A lot of seniors wouldn't want to be treated like helpless individuals. They would want to be empowered, encouraged and strengthened. They are given a sense of freedom when they are in a place where they can do what they want. They know the place and they know how to handle themselves in their own environment. There is a sense of ownership in where they are. Remaining at home for them doesn't only make them a part of a community; it makes them the leaders of their community.

**Proximity and access to family and friends**  
Your Mom and Dad's home is the place where they have gathered their friends and family for many years, and what better way to have all the time in the world to be there and be able to accommodate them anytime you want. As they age, a good number of elderly seniors would want to spend as much time with the people closest to them. What better place for them to entertain and be with the people closest to

their hearts than in their own residences. No check-ins, ID verifications and time limits necessary, unless of course they want that.

**Availability of high quality homecare services**

The most crucial concern of anyone deciding for Mom and Dad is the means of receiving the medical and non-medical attention they need, even if they're at home. Many people opt for a nursing home because of not having enough information about the capabilities of a homecare agency to provide for their needs.

Homecare agencies can provide a wide range of services. From household cleaning, assisting with activities of daily living and even performing administrative duties on their behalf - homecare agencies can assign qualified and competent homecare providers. Most of these agencies have geriatric

care specialists whose focus is serving the elderly. They can also work with medical practitioners who would instruct them how to prepare their food, the best activities to give them and the crucial symptoms and actions they should take note of. Today's homecare agencies have assessment tools and capabilities to determine the type and level of care your parent needs, along with a roster of qualified professionals to provide that care.

An elderly senior wants to make the most of his/her time. Regardless of what they're feeling or experiencing, they want to enjoy this time in their lives, where there are no work pressures or stress and the only thing they're thinking of is how to best spend the time with the people they love. In this period where they truly cherish life's simple pleasures, it's not hard to recognize and understand

why they would want to have lasting footprints in the place where their heart belongs - at home.

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Charmaine Teodoro is the Senior Vice President of JUNO Healthcare Staffing, a group of companies that recruits RNs, LPNs, CNAs and allied healthcare professionals and deploys them to healthcare facilities on a full-time, part-time, per diem or travel assignment. It also sponsors foreign-trained RNs for immigration to the US. JUNO's offices in California are located in Los Angeles and San Diego.  
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IN an age where people work twice as hard, spend more time away from their family, socialize more online than in real life and are lured away by more activities that decrease the value of personal time with one's self or the people closest to them, staying at home and relaxing (just relaxing!) is becoming more and more of a luxury. Now imagine yourself having the chance to just stay at home. You have all the time in the world to stay in your favorite room or sleep on your wonderful bed, which you rarely used when you were a working adult. Today, you finally have the chance to

keep your garden, living room, kitchen and bathroom and arrange or rearrange them anyway you want, as much as you want. However, you're suddenly told that you'll have to live somewhere else... for the rest of your remaining years! How would you feel? For a lot of working adults who have the task of taking care of their parents, it's a struggle to decide where to place them. Some of them want to put their aging parents in beautiful senior residences where Mom and Dad can have as much independence as they want, and enjoy amenities that would keep them active and occupied. The problem, though, is even for those homes with the most basic of amenities, it would cost \$150 a day. A cost that's not easy to deal with even with a two-income family. Then there are nursing homes that, although not as expensive and can be government-covered, would always feel like a hospital rather than a home. It's a genu-

*“ In America today, more than 80 percent of the elderly would prefer to grow old in their own homes. Factors range from familiarity with their environment to proximity and accessibility to the closest people in their lives. ”*

80 percent of the elderly would prefer to grow old in their own homes. Factors range from familiarity with their environment to proximity and accessibility to the closest people in their lives. Add to this the sense of freedom they feel when they're living in their own space and the fact that today's homecare providers allow them to stay in their homes even if they have a chronic illness or disability.

**Familiarity with the environment**

An elderly senior would want to spend his or her golden years at home because they want to be familiar with the place they're growing old in. They do not need to adjust or to be oriented on how to live in the place. There are no rules

## INSURANCE 101



MELODY AVECILLA

STATE Farm and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) wants everyone to be aware of the need for caution and responsibility when tending to lawns and gardens. CPSC has proven that nearly 400,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries from lawn and garden tools. One out of five deaths involves a child.

CPSC recommends that the public take the necessary precautions to prevent injuries from outdoor equipment. They include:

- Dress appropriately for the task
- Wear long pants
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Close-fitting clothes
- No jewelry
- Sturdy shoes with slip-resis-

## Stay safe while working outdoors

tant rubber soles  
Eye protection  
Heavy gloves  
Hearing protection  
Before starting up machinery, remove objects from the area in which you are working that can cause injury or damage equipment.

Make sure that safety devices on the equipment are in place and functioning properly before starting work.

Never let a child ride or operate a garden tractor or riding mower, even if the child is supervised.

Keep children indoors and supervised at all times when any outdoor power equipment is being used.

Never assume children will remain where you last saw them.

Be alert and turn off the mower if children enter the mowing area.

Unplug electric tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before making adjustments or clear-

ing jams near moving parts. Be sure power tools are turned off and made inoperable if they must be left unattended to prevent use by children.

Never work with electric power tools in wet or damp conditions.

Be sure that extension cords are in good condition, are rated for outdoor use, and are the proper gauge for the electrical current capacity of the tool.

Handle gasoline carefully. Never fill gas tanks while machinery is on.

Never fill when equipment is hot

Wipe up spills  
Store gas in an approved container away from the house  
Never smoke around gasoline

For further information on safety tips, visit either statefarm.com or www.cpsc.gov.

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If you suspect a scam, call the NICB hotline at 1-800-TEL-NICB.  
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## IMMIGRATION STORIES



ATTY. DANIELA KOIMAN

ANY person with decent common sense would think that when a government permits a married couple to immigrate to their country, that government will also allow the couple's minor children to immigrate with them. Of course, whatever has to do with United States immigration does not necessarily have anything to do with common sense. That is exactly what Nancy and Alfred learned.

Nancy and Alfred's oldest daughter, Janet, arrived in the United States with a student visa. She was an excellent student and was accepted to a major American university with a full scholarship. The family was very proud of their child. When she announced that she fell in love with an American boy in her school and wants to get married ("He's from a really good family, Mom!"), they were not so sure that it was a very good idea to send her so far away. But at that point there was not much they could do. She is now an adult and does not need permission.

Janet told her parents about all the paperwork that she needed to fill out and the interview and the fact that she is a permanent resident, and it didn't interest them very much. In short time, Janet became a United States citizen and her father's business back home began to suffer the consequences of a global recession. Life was no longer as comfortable for Nancy and Alfred as before. In one of their conversations Janet told her mother that she could get permanent resident status in the United States for her parents in a relatively short time. It was not an easy decision. The family debated it for a few weeks. They called friends and inquired if Alfred could resurrect his business in the United States - it turned out that he could and might even succeed in spite of the current economic situation. Janet contacted my office and began the application process to petition for her parents - a process that would take about a year until their arrival in the

## The children can't come!?!?

United States. While Janet was signing her paperwork it occurred to her to ask when her parents and little brothers would get a social security number.

"Little brothers?" I asked. "You never mentioned any siblings."

"Well, of course," said Janet. "I have a 16-year-old brother and a 12-year-old brother. They will get the green card automatically with my parents, right?"

"No," I said. "Now we have a very serious problem."

"What do you mean?" Janet asked nervously.

I explained that US immigration issues a certain number of immigrant visas (green cards) per year per category. Parents of United States citizens belong to a category that currently has no limit. Meaning that the length of time it will take for the parents to get the immigrant visa only depends on the length of time it takes the authority to process the case. But siblings of US citizens belong to a different category, where the number of applications so exceeds the number of available green cards that it takes between 10 and 20 years to get the visa depending on the country of origin. Janet's siblings would not be able to get a green card with their parents. Even if the parents petitioned for the children once they had their green cards it would take years.

The first time that I saw this absurd phenomena in action was in the beginning of my legal practice. I waited in line at the office in Laguna Niguel to speak with an information officer. A woman stood by one of the windows and cried. It turned out that she received a green-card through a son who became a citizen and left 7 year old twin girls back home. The immigration officer told her that she could ask for a green card for her daughters, but it would take about 5 years until they could come here. The woman begged and explained that the children's father is an alcoholic and does not treat them well and that she spent all the money that she had to get to the United States and bring the girls, but nothing helped. The quota is the quota.

"So what do we do?" asked Janet. "My parents will not leave my brothers alone at home!"

"There are a few possibilities," I answered. "The parents can petition for the children immediately when they receive their green cards and meanwhile we can see if we can get them student visas - if they attend private schools. You cannot get a student visa for children in a public school. We don't want the children to enter as tourists and stay illegally because that is never a good situation. Besides, the 16 year old will probably want a drivers license and it would be difficult for him to get into college in a couple of years. The parents can also as the US government for permission to stay outside the United States for an extended period of time without losing their green cards (re-entry permits) so that they could wait for the children's green cards."

Re-entry permits can be issued for a period of 2 years and may be renewed once for a total of 4 years. There is always home that the new administration will change these absurd rules and institute more humane procedures, but we don't know how long that will take. Once there was a "V" visa that would enable children in this situation to stay legally in the United States while their applications were pending, but law expired a long time ago and has not been renewed. There are a number of political organizations that are pushing congress to renew the V visa, but it doesn't look like it will happen any time soon.

Janet's parents got their green cards. They arrived in the United States for a short period of time to petition their minor children and request re-entry permits for themselves. Now they just have to wait.

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Daniela Koiman, a licensed California attorney, graduated from UCLA with a Baccalaureate of Science degree in Psychology and received her Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. Ms. Koiman began her legal career in 1994 and is currently practicing immigration law exclusively from her office in Woodland Hills.

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