

## Family Law

## CALL US - BEFORE YOUR EX DOES!



Roxanne Shank LAWYER

## Q

A friend of mine wrote: It is challenging to talk with my mom because she remembers me but from a long time ago. She thinks that it is 20-30 years ago and that she lives in her previous home. Last night she was asking me to tell her the truth about what happened to her family, about who took her family away.

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I replied: My heart aches for you! I lost both my parents before I had to deal with this, but close friends who did, shared their daily stories.

Accept that the mother you knew is gone. It is not your fault- everyone is blameless here. It is OK to grieve the loss, while caring for the new person, without judgement. This normally gets tougher-figure out ahead of time when you will need outside help and at what stage, not everyone suffering from this cruel disease can remain at home, or in family care. Some homes are wonderful caring and safe places, even today - do your research ahead of time, before a crisis forces your hand.

It is a challenge to find cognitive appropriate stimulus; there are social engagement tools such as GeriJoy; your mother could tap the screen and interact with a talking dog or cat, which can be operated remotely by trained staff. Other products can turn a basic tablet into a senior friendly device such as Oscar Senior or grandPad. Rendever is a VR program which would permit your mother to interact with a room full of puppies for example.

Count your blessings! Look at the many wonderful people in your life, and how proud you are of them! Be kind to yourself. This is really hard and there are resources out there who can counsel and help, for free.

Your friends at Shank Law.



Phone: 705-435-5055 Email: lynn@shanklawoffice.com Web: shanklawoffice.com