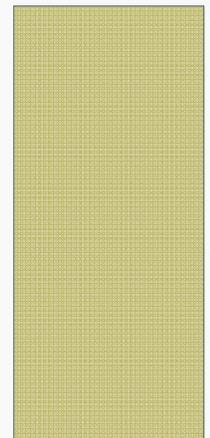


# SAFE PASSAGES :

MEDIATING AGING ISSUES



# AGING BRINGS CHANGES



# SOME WE WELCOME



# SOME WE DREAD



# WE FACE DIFFICULT CHOICES

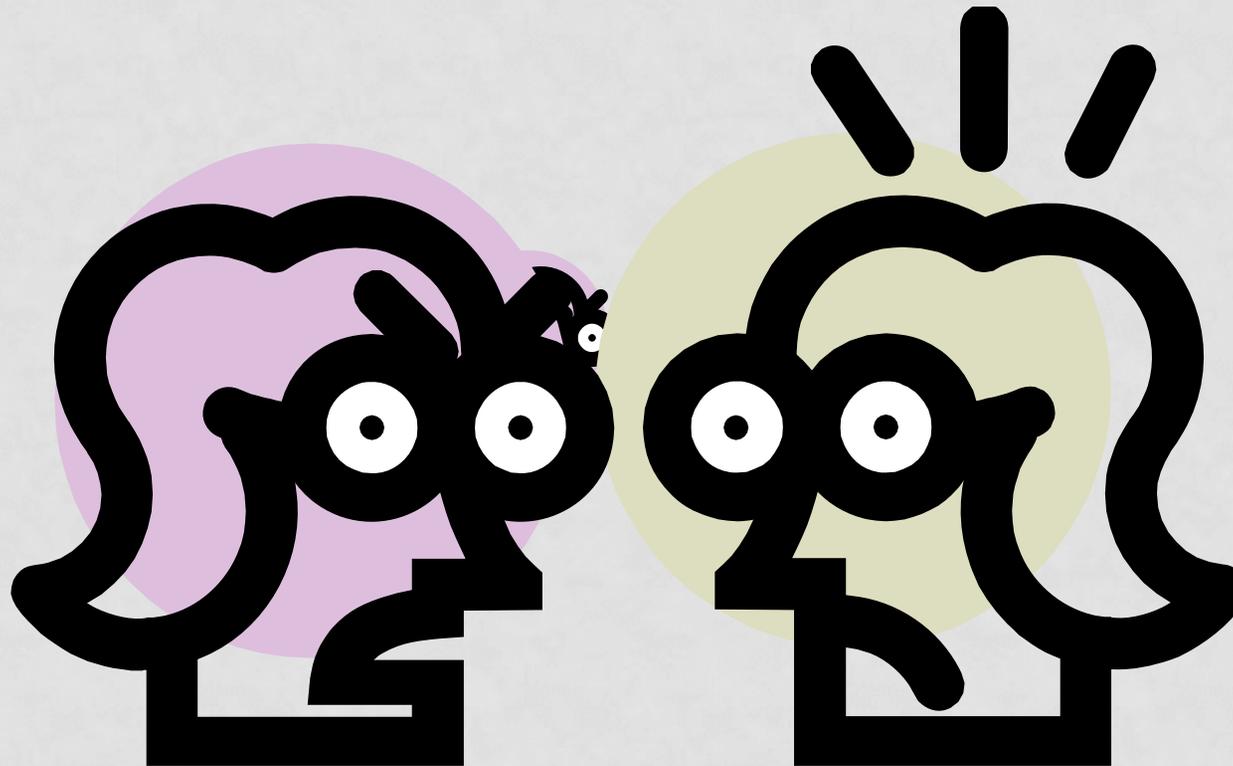
- How will daily needs be met?
- Where will we live?
- How will we receive medical care?
- Who will pay bills and make financial decisions?
- Who will make those decisions when we can no longer make them for ourselves?



## A NEW STAGE OF LIFE

- Our choices don't just effect us anymore.
- As we age our family dynamic changes.
- This shift can cause stress between family members.

AND THE CONFLICTS OVER AGING  
ISSUES CAN TEAR A FAMILY APART



# WE DESERVE TO AGE WITH DIGNITY

Families may disagree about:

- The stage of physical or mental decline
- The level of care needed and whether it can be provided at home
- How finances will be handled.

Even a room full of good intentions can dissolve into conflict when families members are unable to listen to each other.

Fortunately there is another way . . .

# A FACILITATED FAMILY MEETING

- Keeps decision-making within the family
- Maintains family privacy
- Lets all voices be heard
- Helps everyone understand competing needs and interests
- Acknowledges changing needs and roles
- Is an opportunity for constructive change



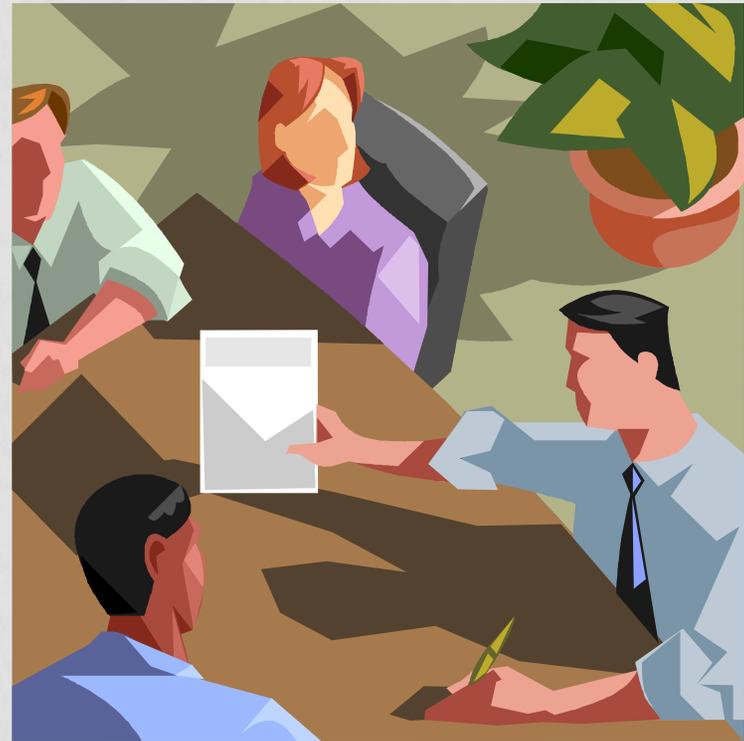
# WHY USE A FACILITATED MEETING?

- Encourage constructive conversations
- Have a safe environment for discussion
- Create a platform to bring up difficult topics
- Set aside a special time to focus on important issues without distractions
- Prevent disagreements from erupting into court battles



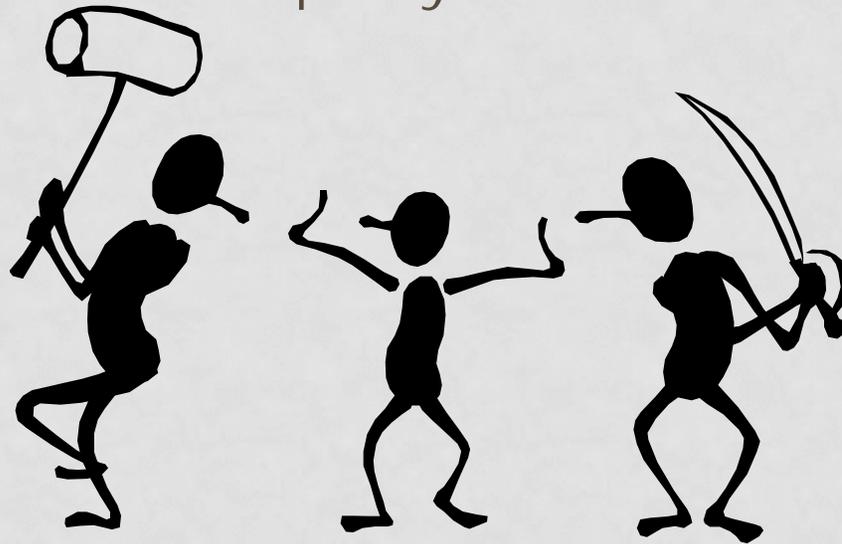
# A MEDIATOR WILL

- Provide neutral leadership
- Help decide who should attend
- Schedule times and locations for meeting
- Assist the family in setting goals for the meeting
- Assure all interests are heard
- Support constructive discussion
- Help organize and track ideas
- Encourage positive action



# THE MEDIATOR WILL NOT:

- Give legal advice
- Make decisions for the family
- Draft legal documents
- Favor one party over another party



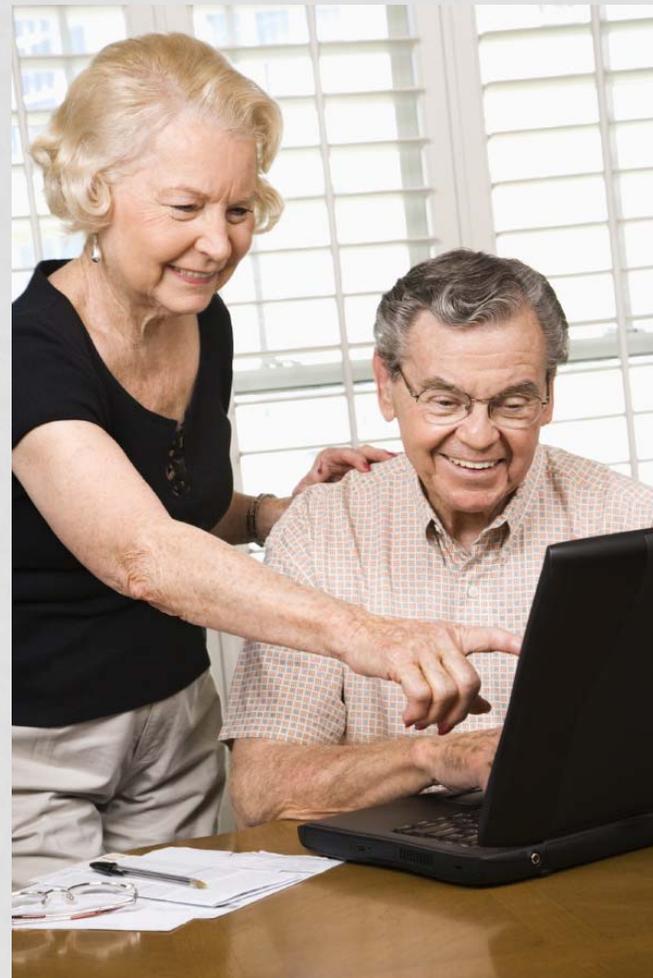
# WHO MIGHT PARTICIPATE?

- The aging individual
- An advocate for the individual
- A spouse or life-companion
- Children
- Siblings
- Legal advisors
- Financial advisors
- Living alternative and care option specialists



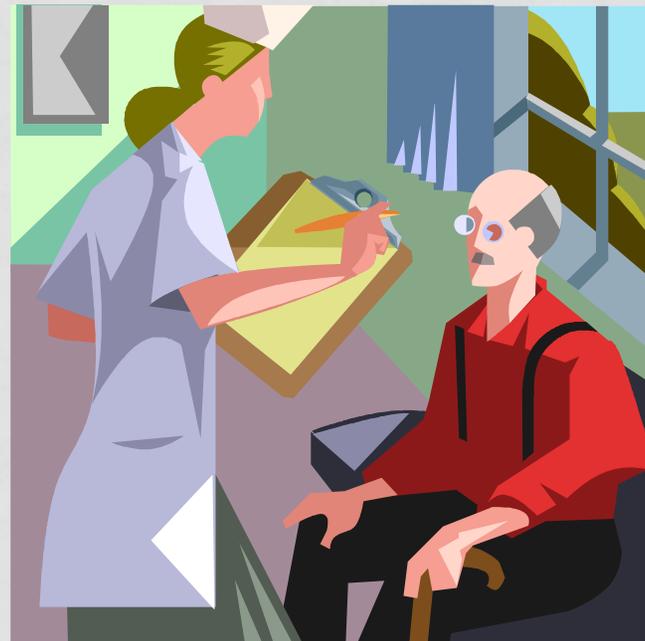
# WHAT ISSUES MIGHT BE DISCUSSED?

- Current arrangements for:
  - Daily care
  - Housing
  - Handling financial matters
  - Handling medical matters
- Future arrangements for:
  - Daily care
  - Housing
  - Handling financial matters
  - Handling medical matters



# WHEN SHOULD WE MEET?

- When you start your life planning
- When a change needs to be made
- When the family finds itself in conflict
- When it fits the needs of your family



# HOW CAN I LEARN MORE, OR FIND AN AGING ISSUE MEDIATION SPECIALIST?

- Contact



The Iowa Association of Mediators at

<http://www.iamediators.org>

Or

The Iowa Department on Aging, [www.iowaaging.gov](http://www.iowaaging.gov)

Or

Your local Area Agency on Aging, [www.i4a.org](http://www.i4a.org)