

Guidance finding parent care from abroad

PARENT CARE CAN BE CHALLENGING – *Especially from abroad*

Many resources can help ensure your parents' safety and wellbeing and help you achieve a degree of freedom from worry about them.

Finding resources can be difficult

- Most people faced with parent care are navigating previously unknown territory with little knowledge about planning for and implementing appropriate care.
- Your attorney, CPA and financial advisor are valuable parent care allies. But they may not be knowledgeable about resources outside their areas of expertise.
- Many of the highest quality eldercare service providers are small businesses, often with little public visibility.

provides contacts and guidance that help you get the parent care you need

Binocular Vision's customized search service can save you time and can take the guess work out of finding a care manager with the skill and experience to handle your parents' individual needs.

About Marcia Johnson and Binocular Vision Advisors, LLC

As my parents advanced into their 80s their physical and mental capabilities gradually declined. I became a 'frequent flier' making weekend visits to keep them company. Thankfully, they were open about end-of-life issues like finances, wills and powers of attorney for finance and healthcare. But we never talked about what to do if one or the other became incapacitated and required long term care.



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My father's major stroke and my mother's subsequent decline, catapulted me from attentive daughter into the foreign territory of parent care, complicated by distance and a battle of wills with my sister. While our individual approaches to handling the crisis were at opposite poles, she and I were equally at a loss to understand and meet our parents' day-to-day care needs.

By chance, I found a geriatric care manager in my parents' city. With her help, the family agreed on a care plan, and I was able to direct their care from out of state.

As part of a generation ill prepared for our elder care role, in 2003 I launched Binocular Vision to connect children caring for aging parents with eldercare services they and their parents need.

Bringing together medical school post-graduate study, an ongoing interest in health care, and a career in marketing, I carried out a multi-year contract linking an Alzheimer's care service with people who needed to engage this specialized care. I gained first-hand knowledge of the wide variety of needs of elders and their families and of the array of options for care and other services.

I grew up within an extended family in which grandparents and great aunts and uncles were part of everyday life. My lifelong respect for elders is the foundation on which Binocular Vision stands. Now I weave together the threads of my life experience to assist people as they navigate the rough waters of parent care.

Help finding a geriatric care manager for your parents

Geriatric care managers assist with eldercare matters, just as attorneys or accountants assist with legal or financial matters. Involving a care manager in planning and managing parent care can help parents attain their maximum functional potential; can secure their safety and wellbeing; and can reduce the emotional toll of parent care on family members.

A geriatric care manager is a health and human services specialist whose background may be in nursing, mental health, social work, or dementia care. She can provide a variety of direct services and can assemble and coordinate community-based services and the services of other professionals. Perhaps most importantly, a care manager where your parents live can help ensure that their needs are met; be on-call to handle emergencies; and keep you informed.

1

We get acquainted

Through a complimentary 15-30 minute phone conversation, we determine if there is a match between your needs and my service. If I can help and you decide to work with me, we make an appointment for a consultation meeting.

We meet to discuss your case

You describe your situation and particular needs and concerns in detail; and I develop a general understanding of your case. We complete a questionnaire to serve as a guide in identifying appropriate professional geriatric care managers who practice where your parents live.

2

Binocular Vision identifies candidates

I share the completed questionnaire and my findings from our meeting with a Binocular Vision Advisor in the U.S. who is a practicing geriatric care manager. She contacts care managers who work with clients in your parents' locality and identifies two or three whom she feels would be appropriate to handle your case.

Binocular Vision provides actionable information

I provide contact information for each candidate identified by the Advisor. I provide the Advisor's statement of how/why each care manager would be, in her opinion, appropriate for your particular situation. I provide a worksheet with topics to cover and questions to ask when interviewing a candidate.

3

You take action

You make follow-up phone calls and/or visits to candidates; obtain and check references; and decide whether or not to engage any of the candidates identified by Binocular Vision Advisors.

Fee for service

Binocular Vision provides independent guidance on an hourly fee basis payable in U.S. dollars. The company does not accept commissions, fees, compensation or consideration of any kind from any of the resources to which we may direct you.

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