Navigating New Family Dynamics
What Matters and Why

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This speaker has no conflict of interest to disclose.
Times are Changing

Older adults are remarrying or re-engaging in coupled relationships more so than we’ve seen in the past… and nobody is more aware of this than the health care providers who work with these families!
Contributing Demographic Trends

Increase in number of ever-married adults divorcing or becoming widowed.

Overall aging population

Creates a larger pool of those who can potentially remarry.
Increasing Trend in Remarriage Among 55+

![Bar chart showing increasing trend in remarriage among 55+ adults from 1960 to 2013.](chart_image)

- 55-65 y.o.
- 65+ y.o.
Considerations

• How does the “new” relationship impact the relationship between mom or dad and adult children?

• How do adult children forge new relationship with new partner or spouse?

• What does this mean in regards to financial matters?

• How do you explain two people living together if this isn’t something that fits into the family’s moral code?

• How does this impact decision making in regards to health care?
Who is Authorized to Consent for Care in Indiana?
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- The Patient
  - Court Appointment Guardian
    - Health Care Representative
      - Spouse
      - Adult Grandchild
      - Adult Sibling
      - Parent
      - Grandparent
      - Adult Child
      - Patient’s Religious Leader
How to Manage

Set boundaries

- Ask the patient with whom they would like staff to communicate.
- Refer to consent paperwork, if completed.
- Refer to already established Advance Directives.
- Explain to the parties your limits in providing information.

Encourage communication

- Ask families to discuss options and ask questions
- Refer families to The Five Wishes to help facilitate some of these conversations

Refer for mediation or counseling

- Mediation is a formal, generally short term method of resolving a dispute with the help of a neutral third party.
- Mediators are typically attorneys, counselors or social workers specifically trained to help parties resolve conflict.
- Resources attached

Encourage Advance Directives
Advance Directives

- Power of Attorney—generally recommend using an attorney to ensure the document is specific to your needs and comprehensive.
- Health Care Representative
- Living Will/Life Prolonging
- Out-of-hospital Do Not Resuscitate Declaration and Order
- Physicians Order for Scope of Treatment (POST)
- Disqualification of person to consent for patient or health care recipient
Resources

Mediation

- Indiana Association of Mediators
  www.mediation-indiana.org
- Elder Care Mediation Academy of Professional Family Mediators
  www.apfmnet.org

Advance Directives

- Five Wishes
  www.agingwithdignity.org
- Indiana Department of Health Advance Directives Resources
  www.in.gov/isdh/25880.htm
• Indiana Code Article 30-5 (Indiana Powers of Attorney Act).
• Indiana Code Chapter 16-36-1 (Health Care Consent).
• Indiana Code Chapter 16-36-3 (Consent to Medical Treatment of Incompetent).
• Indiana Code Chapter 16-36-4 (Living Wills and Life Prolonging Procedures).
• Indiana Code Chapter 16-36-5 (Out of Hospital Do Not Resuscitate Declarations).
• Indiana Code Chapter 16-36-6 (Physician Order for Scope of Treatment).
• Indiana Code Chapter 16-36-1-9 (Disqualification of person to consent for patient or health care recipient)