

— Lifelong Living Series —

Making Housing Decisions as a Family

By Tom Sharp
Senior Real Estate Specialist®



When housing needs begin to change, families often see the situation differently. Taking time to understand each person's concerns can lead to better decisions—and fewer regrets.

Helpful Resources

If future housing decisions may become part of the discussion, you may also find these guides helpful:

- **When Is It Time to Move?**
- **Staying vs. Moving: A Practical Comparison**
- **Downsizing Without Regret**
- **Planning a Move Without Stress**

You can also access:

- **Lifelong Living Guides**
- **55+ Community Guides**
- **Senior Services Guide**

at www.TomSharpRealtor.com/planning-ahead

or scan:



Taking the First Steps

The best family decisions rarely happen by accident. They begin with honest conversations, thoughtful planning, and a willingness to explore every option.

Start the conversation before it becomes urgent.



Tom Sharp, REALTOR®
Greater Athens Properties

(706) 331-6035

TomSharpRealtor@gmail.com

Helping people make thoughtful,
lifelong real estate decisions —
with clarity and confidence.



Why Families Often See Things Differently

Housing decisions are about much more than choosing where to live. They involve independence, finances, safety, relationships, and hopes for the future. Because each family member views the situation through a different lens, it's common for people to reach different conclusions.

A homeowner may value:

- Remaining independent
- Staying in a familiar neighborhood
- Keeping close friends nearby
- Maintaining privacy and routines

Adult children may be thinking about:

- Safety and fall risks
- Emergency situations
- Home maintenance becoming difficult
- Time, distance, or caregiving responsibilities

Housing decisions become easier when families recognize that everyone's concerns are valid and deserve to be heard.



Before Looking for Solutions

The best family decisions begin by listening to everyone's perspectives, ideas, and concerns—not by persuading one another.

These conversations are often easier **before** a health event, injury, or other unexpected change creates pressure. Planning ahead gives families more time, more choices, and greater confidence in whatever decision they eventually make.

Instead of beginning with "Should we move?" or "Can we stay?", start by exploring what matters most to each person.

Consider questions such as:

- What parts of the home are still working well?
- What has become more difficult?
- What concerns you most?
- What do you hope stays the same?
- What options should we explore together?

The best solutions begin with understanding everyone's concerns before deciding what to do.



Explore the Full Range of Options

Moving isn't the only solution—and staying isn't always the best one. Many families discover there are several realistic paths forward.

Possible options include:

- ✓ Making modifications to improve safety or accessibility
- ✓ Bringing in services for housekeeping, meals, transportation, or home maintenance
- ✓ Downsizing to a smaller or more manageable home
- ✓ Moving closer to family, medical care, or everyday conveniences
- ✓ Exploring 55+ communities or other housing choices that better fit future needs
- ✓ Remaining in the current home while creating a plan for future changes

The best decision is the one that reflects your family's priorities—not someone else's expectations.

Most families have more choices than they realize. Taking time to explore those options often leads to better decisions..