

Staying Involved After a Loved One Passes

Family Councils understand that the relationships and experiences built during a loved one's time in care don't end when they pass away.

That's why many councils choose to welcome "**legacy family members**"—family members who wish to stay involved after their loved one is gone.

Organizations like Independent Long-Term Care Councils Association of BC and Family Councils Ontario support this approach and recognize that councils have the right to decide what works best for their members.

What does this mean:

- You may be able to continue attending Family Council meetings
- You may stay in a leadership role to help transition for support and sustainability
- You may take on a supportive role like a mentor or advisor
- You remain part of a community that understands your journey
- You may continue to take part as long as staying on is approved by the other families in the leadership of the council, the governance documents state that you can and you abide by the family council code of conduct

Why it matters:

- Your experience can help improve care for current residents
- You can support new families as they navigate long-term care
- Staying connected can be a meaningful part of the grieving process

A few important notes:

- Participation is guided by the Council's Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct
- All members are expected to be respectful and constructive

Family Councils are self-led, which means the group decides together how legacy members are included.

In short:

You don't have to leave the community when your loved one passes. If it feels right for you—and the Council—it's possible to stay connected, contribute, and support others.