The Terrible *Too's*

. . . there may come a time when your loved one is *Too Cognitive* to be forced to move against their will and yet *Too Demented* to be able to safely live on their own. My mother was *Too Cognitive* because she was able to firmly voice her desire that she not be moved from her home, and she hadn't done anything the *system* considered *Too Dangerous* to be moved against her will. Yet she was *Too Agitated*, *Too Afraid*, *Too Unable To Eat Properly*, *Too Unable To Take Her Medications Properly*, and *Too Demented* to safely live alone. . . .

Do You Have The Legal Authority?

Laws differ from state to state, and hopefully are evolving for the better; but you may find that even when it is in your loved one's best interests to be moved, you may not have the legal authority to do so. . . .

Redefining Your Relationship

. . . My goal was to always give her the best quality of life she was capable of achieving at whatever level she was at in any given moment.

And Sometimes They Don't

. . . every day at some point in our visit I would say to her, "Who's my little Mommy?" and she'd say, "Me, I am!" This went on for many months and I was certain it would keep reinforcing that relationship memory. However, one day when we engaged in our little banter, after saying, "Me, I am!" she followed up with, "How come I always have to be the little Mommy?" At some point over that span of months, she had lost the meaning of the words and it had just become a daily game to her. . . .

Love And Enjoy Them As They Are

Learn to love and enjoy your loved one as he or she is at every moment throughout the progression of dementia. I always found things to appreciate at each stage. I enjoyed the cute, child-like innocence Mom expressed in the early stages. I laughed at many of her remarks, observations, and incorrect conclusions because, within her dementia, her logic was impeccable. I loved how she always grasped and held my two fingers throughout our visits in the later stages.

DNRs And Advanced Directives *(Making The Tough Decisions)*

Some of the most difficult decisions you'll have to make about health care are the medical treatments you will (and will not) allow for your loved one. These may change as time goes on and will likely evolve with the progression of their dementia. . . .

Interacting With The Facility

. . . I would usually begin by thanking them for the positive things in Mom's care, the facility, and aspects of the routine I thought they were doing well. I would praise the hands-on staff. And then I would say "There's so much you do here so well, but one thing I find that could use some improvement for my mom is . . ." . . .