

Legal Assistance

Dementia care often results in a financial and legal burden on the family. Families and caregivers can seek advice on Estate Planning, Powers of Attorney (POAs), and Guardianship.

To obtain a list of attorneys who specialize in Elder Law, contact:

**The Lebanon County
Bar Association**
717- 273-3113

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood and personality

alz.org

Family Support

Consider attending a **Memory Café** or **Support Group**. These informal gatherings provide educational and emotional support to caregivers and family members. To learn more, contact Janell Brandt at Linden Village 717-274-7400.

Contact the Area Agency on Aging (717-273-9262) for more information about the following resources:

- **Pennsylvania Department of Aging Waiver Program**
- **Albright Life**
- **Eldercare**
- **AAA OPTIONS Services**
(Personal Care, Life Line, Meals on Wheels)

Additional Information and Education

Alzheimer's Association
24/7 Helpline
800-272-3900
alz.org

Penn State Extension: Lebanon County
2120 Cornwall Road #1
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-270-4391

**LINK to Aging and Disability Services of
Berks, Lebanon and Lancaster Counties**
610-207-1420
800-753-8827

communityhealthcouncil.com/aging

Steps in Accessing Dementia-Related Services

1. Pursue a Medical Assessment from a primary care doctor, neurologist or geriatrician.
2. Request a Level of Care Assessment from the Lebanon County Area Agency on Aging. (#1 and #2 determine eligibility for housing and care services available in the community.)
3. Contact your Area Agency on Aging for a list of community support programs, care options, and care facilities.

Dementia Resource Pocket Guide

Finding answers to Dementia-related questions in Lebanon County



Concerned About Memory Issues?

If you need help with Dementia-related resources or services, please contact:

**Lebanon County Area
Agency on Aging**
710 Maple Street, 2nd Floor
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-273-9262



What is Dementia?

Dementia is a general term for the impaired ability to remember, think, or make decisions that interferes with doing everyday activities.*

If you have a family member or friend who is experiencing confusion, forgetting things, or getting lost, contact a primary care doctor for a medical evaluation. (There are medical issues that need to be ruled out to determine the cause of their symptoms.)

Additional testing by a neurologist or geriatrician could also be requested for a more specific diagnosis.

*Source: CDC.gov

If dementia is diagnosed, has cognitive capacity been determined?

If the individual has symptoms but is deemed to still have capacity and no powers of attorney (POAs) are in place, contact an Elder Law Attorney to complete a

- healthcare POA
- living will
- financial POA
- advance care planning documents

If the individual is deemed to not have capacity and POAs are in place, take copies of their medical evaluation along with copies of their medical and financial powers of attorney to:

- healthcare providers
- financial institutions

(This enables the powers of attorney to assist in medical and financial decision-making.)

If the individual is deemed to not have capacity due to Dementia and no power of attorney is in place, then a guardianship would need to be pursued:

- Have a psychological evaluation completed for your loved one.
- Obtain an Elder Law Attorney or a Guardianship Attorney.