

14th World Summit on

Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia Care Research and Awareness

6th World Summit on **Heart, Stroke and Neurological Disorders**

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Legal and financial issues for dementia patients

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Caring for a family member with Dementia poses many challenges for caregivers. Family members are unprepared when dealing with a loved one with Dementia. Overwhelmed with emotions such as denial, anger and helplessness, legal and financial issues are often neglected but these are very important and need to be addressed at the earliest. Especially for a disease that is expected to cause declining mental, physical health. The changes will affect their ability to make decisions and participate in legal and financial planning in future. These issues are overlooked due to Lack of awareness regarding its importance, Postponing it to some other suitable time, If the patient is your parent and you have one or more siblings, it's the fear of blame game and stigma. As soon as the diagnosis is established, families of people with dementia can be helped by addressing tough questions such as: Money- Bank accounts, Pension, Thumb Impressions, Lockers, Shares and Mutual funds Property HUF- Hindu undivided family, the mandate has to be transferred Power of Attorney / Legal Guardian Valid Will No Investments after the diagnosis established These financial and legal issues should be dealt at the first sign of Dementia. Take the help of attorneys , Confide in a family member and discuss it among your siblings without any fear. It is an important part of caring for your beloved one.

Biography

Sushma Chawla is a medical practitioner with more than 35 years of experience as a Gynaecologist in New Delhi. She is also the Founder President of Hope Ek A.S.H.A., a charitable organization dedicated to the care of Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. For her, it was a chance encounter with Alzheimer's in 1994 when her mother suffered from this disease and after a long struggle succumbed to it. Instituted in her memory in 2001, Hope Ek A.S.H.A. today reaches out to hundreds of families for medical and voluntary support in taking care of patients and caregivers. Working at grass-root level to create awareness about Alzheimer's disease and emphasizing on how it is different from normal old age cognitive decline, conducts regular home visits, runs memory clinics and provides legal guidance and advice to families. It also connects caregivers on a common forum to enable them to discuss issues related to caregiving and seek help from specialists. Hope Ek A.S.H.A. was recently granted 'Special Consultative Status' by United Nation Economic and Social Council.

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