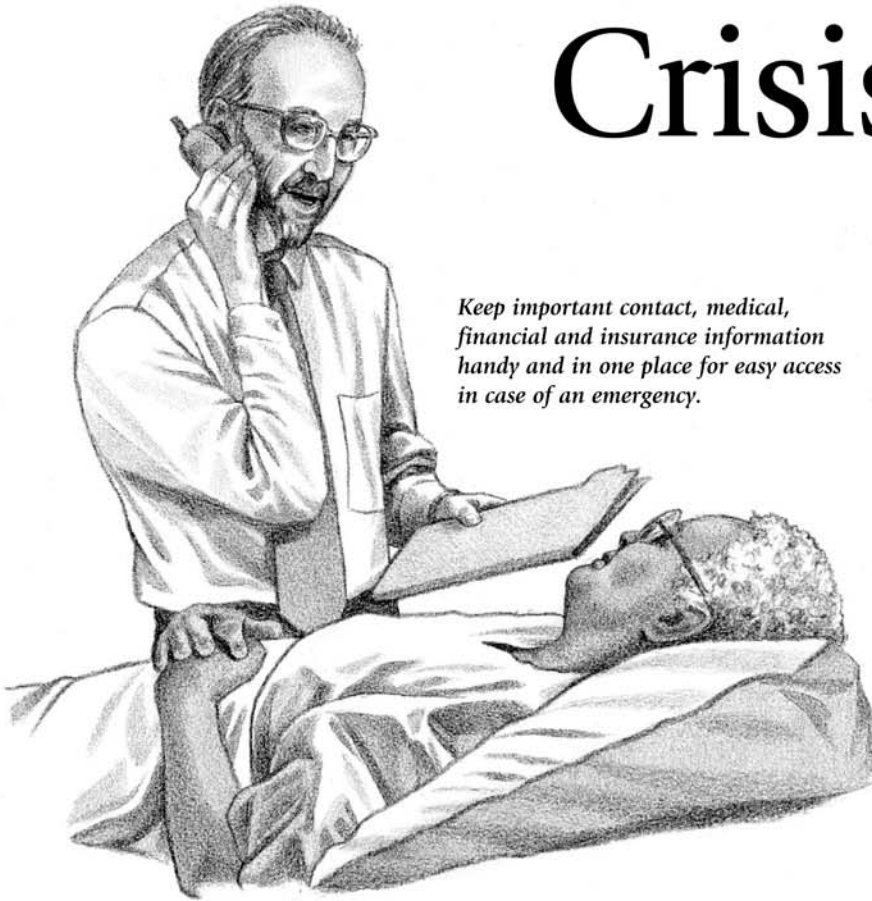


# Crisis Plans



*Keep important contact, medical, financial and insurance information handy and in one place for easy access in case of an emergency.*

At some point, you may be confronted with an emergency crisis beyond your control. Your elder may be hospitalized unexpectedly or may have a sudden medical crisis. What is under your control, however, is how you deal with these crises.

Everyone will be better off if you, and others who may be responsible for the care of the elder, make plans for emergency situations. This way, you can coolly and rationally make the necessary decisions, find the right information, call the proper authorities and make sure that your elder is well taken care of.

## Information

Having information at your fingertips can be vital in case of an emergency. You will be making a number of calls on behalf of your elder, so having multiple copies of important phone numbers, as well as a list of people who can help you make the calls, will help you get this business taken care of.

You will also be responsible for attending to various financial and legal matters; so having all pertinent information will make your job easier. Keep multiple copies of a list of the most important information at home, at work and in your purse or wallet.

Here is some of the information that you will want to keep handy in case of an emergency:

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**—doctor, dentist, attorney, insurance agent, accountant, landlord, house sitter, pet sitter, relatives, friends, neighbors, police, fire, hospital, electrician, plumber, utility companies, clergy

**MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ELDER**—medical conditions, medication (including drugs and their dosage), allergies

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**—bank and investment account numbers, safe deposit box locations

**INSURANCE INFORMATION**—all health, disability, life and long-term care policies

**LEGAL INFORMATION**—trusts, living trusts, wills, powers of attorney

## Access

You must also make sure ahead of time that, if the need arises, you will have access to property and to financial and legal documents.

- Make duplicate keys for your elder's home, garage, car, safe and other properties.
- Set up power of attorney or establish a second signature on key bank accounts and safe deposit boxes.

## Communication

You hope that if your elder suffers a medical emergency at home, he or she will be able to call you. However, this may not always be the case. To guard against situations in which your elder may not be able to call you, set up a system where you and other family members, friends and neighbors check in regularly to make sure that everything is okay. Also consider getting a beeper or other emergency alert system that he or she can use in case of an emergency.