

OUR FILIAL DUTIES

我们的孝道职责



当我们写财务规划时，两个最常触及的主题是退休计划和孩子的高等教育。

其实仍有一组人是同等重要，或许我们需要在财务规划与管理上给予指导和协助，他们就是我们的父母；但可惜的是，他们并没有得到太多的关注。

当我们庆祝母亲节和父亲节时，我们或可考虑在今年送给他们更有意义的礼物！

有些家长在退休时或需要孩子在财务上提供援助。其他家长一般可精通于规划钱财，一些家长甚至是完全财政独立，因此不需要从孩子方面获得任何财务援助。

15年前，财务规划是一个新的领域，人们大多在接触财务规划都是在黑暗中摸索。

媒体当时没有带出更多的信息。在此之前，金融服务机构都强调他们的产品在某个独立基础上所带来的好处，而不是如何通过一部份产品，可定制全盘的财务计划。这些是导致至今人们对财务规划仍有不同的理解水平。

无论是心理或生理还是经济上，在准备自己照顾父母方面，往往是一个被忽略部份。

良好规划减缓冲击

很多时候，因受到社会和经济因素影响，成为了孩子在履行自己的孝道职责上的一个问题时。

家长从孩子方面获得的某种程度的财务指导和援助，最佳的方式应是双方以开放的态度，及同样的目标来达致。因此，无论我们喜欢还是不喜欢，



●当我们庆祝母亲节和父亲节时，我们或可考虑在今年送给他们更有意义的礼物！

最好让已成年的子女在父母仍然健康的情况下，讨论这些问题并可依照父母的意愿，作出良好的决定，并同时确保年轻的家庭成员或任何涉及需要财务的孩童，其成长过程也受到照顾。

往往第一步的尝试最难。孩子在与父母针对这些问题进行磋商绝对是不容易的。有些家长可能会不高兴。然而，作为孩子和家长长期的福祉和利益，无论情况有多不愉快，这些问题有所谈

论。

在帮助父母把有秩序地管理财务，孩子并不需要知道每一个细节。孩子和家长之间的财务规划，是确保主要财务方面的问题获得照顾，并避免让双方的财政状况没有在没有出现令人意外的开支下，处理危险的情况。

即使此类事件发生，好的规划将能减缓所面对的冲击。

只需列出

收入 开支 储蓄 资产 投资

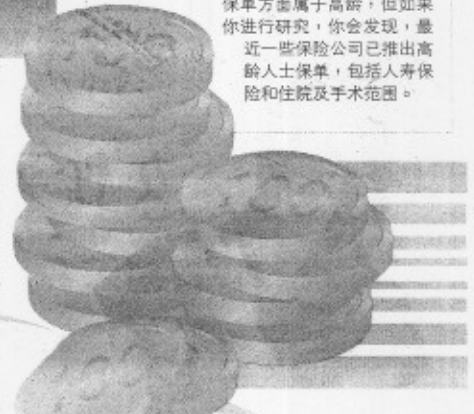
至于孩子为父母进行的理财范围，与我们为本身所作的财务规划，尤其是退休规划相似。

只需列出父母所有的收入、开支、储蓄、资产和投资。仅需制作一个简单的流动资金表和资产负债列表，此后应定期更新，以检查整体财政状况或出现的任何重要变化。

至于未退休的父母则要向孩子透露他们在退休后的收入来源，以及是否有需要从他们的成年子女上获得任何财务支援。

保险和住院保障

向父母了解是否有需要这一类的保单。你可能会认为，他们可能是在购买任何保单方面属于高龄，但如果你进行研究，你会发现，最近一些保险公司已推出高龄人士保单，包括人寿保险和住院及手术范围。



遗嘱和受益人

您一定会同意我的看法，这是一个父母与孩子之间极为敏感的问题。

然而，这对于父母而言却是最好的出发点，父母命名的受益人，并根据自己的意愿，适当地将资产进行分配，而不是到最后无理地托付给不信任的人士。

家长应通知其子女或信任的人士，有关他们的遗嘱及保管所在地。

否则，当家庭成员无法找到遗嘱时，就与没有遗嘱一样。

我们知道在我们内心深处，财务规划和支持对于父母而言只是次要的，家长最希望的，莫过于有孩子陪伴在旁。



OUR FILIAL DUTIES

When we write about financial planning, the two most-visited topics are planning for our retirement and children's higher education. There is another group of equally important people, who may need our guidance and help in financial planning and management, but sadly are not given as much attention as they deserve - our parents. As we celebrate Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day in the months of May and June, let us consider some of the following points and we could be on our way to give them a more meaningful gift this year!

Some parents may need financial assistance from their children when they retire. Other parents may be generally well versed in money matters, and some parents are totally, financially independent and hence do not need any financial assistance from their children.

Over 15 years ago when financial planning was a new area, and hardly touched on as much as it is now, people were largely in the dark about carrying out proper financial planning. The media then did not carry as much information, if at all, about financial planning as they do now. Before, financial services institutions all emphasised the benefits of their products on a standalone basis, and not on how these products could be part of a customised and comprehensive financial plan. All these resulted in people having different comprehension levels of financial planning as us now.

Preparing ourselves to look after our parents, whether emotionally, physically or financially, is an area that is often neglected. Most of the time, it becomes a problem when the children find it difficult to fulfil their filial obligations due to social and economic factors.

As to what extent of financial guidance and assistance a parent requires from a child is best explored together by both parties with open minds and with the same objectives.

Therefore, whether we like it or not, it is best that grown-up children discuss these subjects with their parents when they are still healthy so that decisions can be made according to their parents' wishes, and at the same time ensuring that the young family or any financial concern of the grown child is taken care off.

Making the first attempt is the hardest. It is definitely not easy for a grown-up child to broach these subjects with his/her parents. Some parents may react unpleasantly. However, for the long-term well-being and benefits of the child and the parent, these issues must be visited no matter how unpleasant the conversations could get.

In helping to put the parents' finances in order, children need not have to know every detail down to the last cent. The planning between the child and parent is to ensure major financial aspects are taken care off and there are no surprise expenses that could put the parent's or child's financial status in jeopardy. Even if such events do take place, good planning would be able to cushion the impact.

Areas for a child to explore with the parent would be similar to the areas we would work on for our own financial planning, especially retirement planning.

CASH FLOWS, INCOME, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS Simply have our parents list down all of their income, expenses, savings, assets and investments. Just establish a simple cash flow statement and an asset and liability statement which thereafter should be periodically updated to check for any significant changes in the overall financial position.

Parents who have not retired would want to explore with their children the sources of their income upon retirement, and whether any financial support is required from their grown children.

INSURANCE AND HOSPITALISATION COVERAGE Just check out whether our parents have any of these policies. You may perceive that they may be too old to purchase any policies, but if you search around now, you will be surprised to find that, lately, insurance companies have been introducing new policies for senior citizens, including life insurance and hospitalisation and surgery coverage.

WILL AND BENEFICIARIES You would definitely agree with me that this is an extremely sensitive issue between a parent and a child. Nonetheless, it is for the best interest of parents to name beneficiaries and have a proper will done up in order that their assets will be distributed on a timely basis and according to their own wishes and not land up being unwittingly disbursed to other unintended parties. Parents should inform their children or persons that they trust about their will and where it is being kept. Otherwise, when family members cannot find the will, it is like not having a will at all.

Last but not least, we know deep down in our hearts that financial guidance and support is only secondary to our parents, what any parent would want most from their children is companionship.



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