Financial Affairs:
Financial Freedom or Household Headaches?

Managing household finances can be complicated when sharing a home with a senior parent. Adriane Berg, author of "How Not to Go Broke at 102!," CEO of the boomer consulting company Generation Bold, and a founder of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, developed a list of financial considerations:

1. **Compute the costs.** To do that, Home Instead Senior Care and Berg have created a calculator, located at www.makewayformom.com, which features 15 questions about your expenses and living habits. Answer those questions and the calculator computes the results to help you determine whether living separately or together is the best option.
2. **Share but beware.** Share overhead costs such as heat and water, but beware of the tax implications of combining households. A tax adviser should be consulted before such a move.
3. **Keep money separate.** Maintain separate bank accounts if the senior is of sound mind. Seniors who stay in control of their finances thrive.
4. **Consider caregiving.** While a healthy senior can serve as a grandchild's caretaker, an unhealthy older adult will need care. That can be a disruption of a household as well as loss of work income. You must factor that into your budget.
5. **What about deductions?** You may qualify for a dependency deduction for your older loved one if they're living with you, however, seniors may lose a homeowner's deduction if they move out of their own home.

For more information and tips on the financial ramifications of intergenerational living, log on to www.makewayformom.com or *contact your local Home Instead Senior Care office for the free "Too Close for Comfort?" handbook.*