

*Changing the Culture of  
Dementia Care  
One Mind at a Time*

Positive®  
Approach

**GEMS**®  
Dementia **Aware**  
Dementia **Knowledgeable**  
Dementia **Skilled**  
Dementia **Competent**

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# **Coping with Grief, Loss and Death in the World of Dementia**

**Providing Positive Approach  
to Care® Support**

## **Question Four**

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# Questions:

- **Do I bring my mom, who has dementia, to my dad's funeral?**
- **Do I involve her in the planning of the service?**

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# With dementia, it all depends...

## On what?

- Where the person is in their dementia
- Who the person has been their entire life
- Where the funeral will be compared to where the person is located
- Who will be present at the funeral besides the person living with dementia: are they aware of the situation and are they knowledgeable about how to interact with someone living with dementia?
- Is there a faith-based or cultural practice of importance around death that would be meaningful to the PLwD at this time?
- Who is the funeral and attendance for?

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# Things to Consider:

- The person's life story, history, and connection to the individual who has died
- The funeral and burial practices of the family, culture, and community
- The person's general fitness, wellness, and type of dementia
- The GEMS® State of the person with their retained ability and interests:
  - Diamond
  - Emerald
  - Amber
  - Ruby
  - Pearl

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**Consider the event itself:  
duration, ceremonial  
expectations, social  
expectations?**

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# Ability to modify, change, pause, re-consider along the way?

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**How are you now feeling and thinking about the ability of the person living with dementia to be at the funeral?**

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