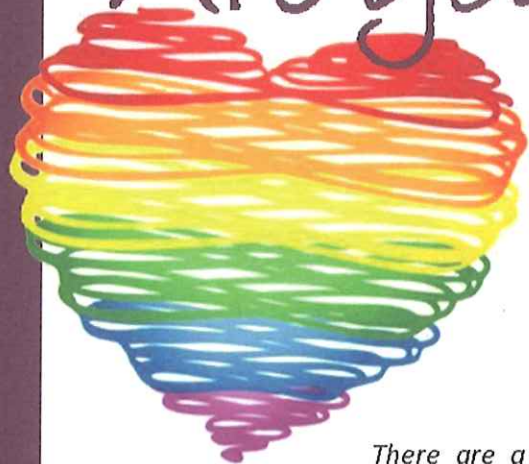


# Are you the caregiver for an LGBT older adult?



## Important Considerations

*There are a number of important considerations for those caring for a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender older adult. If you or someone you know is caring for an LGBT older adult, consider the following.*

**Families of Choice**—Because LGBT older adults are 3-4 times less likely to have children to care for them, many rely on chosen family members to care for them. If you are family of choice, do you have legal authority to make important decisions? Does the older adult you care for have family members of choice that they would like to be involved with care?

**Personal Privacy**—Be sensitive to the LGBT older adult's requests about whether or not to be "out" to care providers. Some individuals may choose a higher level of privacy to avoid discrimination or mistreatment.

**LGBT Affirming Care**—If "out," do you have access to referrals for care that will treat your LGBT loved one with dignity and respect and not discriminate against them?

**Community**—Social isolation is tied to poor health outcomes. It's important to keep your loved one connected to their social circles. Do you know who is in your loved one's social network?

## We can help

**Call your local Area Agency on Aging.** For numbers and services areas, see the map on the reverse side of this flyer.

Or Visit **SAGE Metro Detroit** at:  
[www.SAGEMetroDetroit.org](http://www.SAGEMetroDetroit.org)





# Questions for LGBT Caregivers



## Considerations for LGBT Caregivers of Older Adults

*Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are more likely to be caring for an aging loved one, whether a parent, a spouse or significant other, or a friend or member of one's chosen family. Here are a few special considerations, along with additional information and referrals.*

**Health and end-of-life care**—Have you discussed your loved one's end-of-life preferences and do you have the legal authority to make needed decisions?

**Family & Medical Leave**—If employed, unmarried LGBT partners and family are not currently covered on the Family and Medical Leave Act. Check to see if your employer has broadened their policy to cover your needs. This is especially important if you are caring for a member of your chosen family.

**LGBT Affirming Care**—Do you have access to LGBT-affirming referrals for care—both so your loved one is welcome as well as you?

**Finances**—Are you legally authorized to manage your loved one's finances in the event that person can't? Are you aware of financial fraud and elder abuse laws?

**Self-Care**—Are you taking care of yourself? Do you know where to find LGBT-welcoming support?

*We can help*

**sage**<sup>SM</sup>  
METRO DETROIT  
Services & Advocacy  
for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual  
& Transgender Elders

**Visit [www.SAGEMetroDetroit.org](http://www.SAGEMetroDetroit.org)** for information and support. The mission of SAGE Metro Detroit is to build awareness and promote change so that LGBT older adults may age with dignity and authenticity.

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