

Letter To My Children About Independence

by Kay Mauser

Independents means different things to different people. It depends on our age, and our position we hold in society.

When we are entering kindergarten our independence begins our mother allows us to go to school alone. Later it may be when we are able to carry money and make purchases at the store. Perhaps when we are trusted to go on dates and return at the stated time.

But there is one independence that no one wishes to talk about and that is the independence of the elderly. It is usually noted after one of the spouses dies. The children gather round and decide what mother or father should or not do about things that they have done all their life. If mom or dad begin to object they think they are ornery.

They forget that the routines that have been set up long ago are hard to change.

We have routines and it may take us longer to accomplish what it is we want to do. But believe me we can get it done.

Honest, we will call for help if we want the house really clean for spring or fall. Let us decide when it is that we need our Mary, Susie or Anna to do that for us. We still can pick up a dust rag and run it over the furniture. We know you love us, but really. Get a life. We are living ours.

My daughter asked once how old do I have to be before I can tell you how to do things. I told her to forget it. As long as my mind works I'm calling the shots. Yes, admiralty it takes me longer to do things. But let me do them. Please don't take my independence away from me.

Now if I truly need help, I will try my best to accept it with grace, but if I get ornery perhaps it is because my memory is still very good and I can remember when I took care of our family and did things for all you dear children. And on the side I kept up myself, the house, and continued to learn many new things about life and what makes people happy.

I still don't go out if its cold or windy. I am enjoying life to the fullest and dear ones I love you and thank you for you concern. But I will know when I need your help.

Love you Mom