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# How Can I Make The Most Of My Holiday Stay?

Glen Jenson

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**A weekly question/answer column**

**How Can I Make The Most Of My Holiday Stay?**

*Glen O. Jenson\* answers:*

Staying with relatives over the holidays can provide an opportunity for sharing, reminiscing, family bonding, and possibly biting your tongue. To maximize everyone's enjoyment, consider these suggestions.

- Plan your visits to cover an optimal amount of time, not the maximum allowable days. Visits have more family bonding power if departure comes when everyone wishes they could stay longer.
- Accept the fact that there will be differences in opinions. Try to begin and end the visit with your sense of humor in tact. Relationships are more important than proving a point or trying to change others' thinking or ways. Be slow to give advice to another adult.
- Parents should take along planned activities for younger children. Take them on short walks, trips to the grocery store or rides in the car to give everyone a break.
- Married children should contribute where possible and appropriate to help cover food and entertainment expenses.
- Make it a point to be complimentary and appreciative. Once the visit is over, a thank you note from children and grandchildren showing appreciation for the time spent together can help strengthen relationships and increase anticipation for the next visit.

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