

How This Goes Well

Keeping the family intact: the ground rules that stop a cleanout from becoming the argument that defines the next few years.

This one isn't about logistics. It's about the people. Structure isn't the opposite of love — sometimes it's how love survives a hard week.

- One person is the decision-maker — and that's a gift, not a slight. It keeps the process from stalling.
- The system only works if everyone uses it. One person freelancing breaks it for everyone.
- Nothing leaves without everyone knowing.
- Informal promises are conversations, not transfers. Write down who gets what, with a date.
- The space has a map — use it. Talk in zones and colors, not vague gestures.
- Your role is your role. Decide what's yours to decide and let others own theirs.
- Disagreements happen — here's where they go: to the decision-maker, against the same written plan everyone can see.

When you're standing in a space that belonged to someone you loved, the clean rules feel far away. That's not a failure of preparation. That's just what this is.