



Doesn't Independence = Freedom?

That is what most would conclude from Mr. Webster or a scan through a thesaurus. However, there is a subtle difference and that difference must become part of the compelling influences toward sound decisions. Independence is “a lack of dependence, it is without control, assistance or help from another”. Now, *why* would anyone want to be without the help of others? Freedom is a condition where one can be in control of life without the burdens of housekeeping, home care, maintenance, or other demands for private living. The availability of help is only a further freedom to control what you can control and to leave the rest to those who offer services and assistance around you and for you.

Even if nursing care or physical assistance is required, the knowledge that the life experience can be controlled with safety and assistance when required further defines freedom. The value of assistance of any kind must be incorporated in the vision of a better life. This enables freedom.