

# The Impact of Parents Using Money to Control Their Adult Children



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This is Part 1 of a four-part series entitled “When It Comes To Family, Money Can Be A Glue or A Solvent.”

As parents, you always want what’s best for your children. But as your children get older, the topic of money starts to have a different meaning. You may have used money in the past as a bribe if your younger children wanted you to buy something for them. That may have worked then, but using the same type of strategy with adult children can sometimes cause more harm than good. Your intention is still the same, but an adult child may see the action as an attempt to be controlling and create stress and tension in their relationship with you.

## Psychological Concerns When Parents Control Adult Children With Money

When a parent uses money to [influence their adult child’s decision-making](#), they could be hindering their growth and unintentionally creating stress in the relationship. The child could see this tactic similarly to the “carrot and stick” trick where the carrot is always just going to be out of arm’s reach. Of course, doing the opposite and always giving your adult child the money they need won’t always create the best results either. Finding a balance and keeping the lines of communication open will help your child grow as an adult and maintain your healthy relationship with them.

## Communication Keeps Families Together

Some kids are easy to read when they wear their emotions on their sleeve, while others aren’t. You may be able to sense frustration directed at you from your child, but it’s not always simple to figure out why on your own. Communicating with every member of your family about issues revolving around money can help bind

everyone together. Money itself doesn't necessarily bind families together or tear them apart. It's the actions, thinking and intent of the people who leverage money, which are usually the parents. If an adult child indicates he or she feels insecure or has any other negative feeling when money is involved, strongly consider altering your approach and even [working with a financial advisor](#) to help.

## Work With A Financial Advisor No Matter Your Situation

A financial advisor can play many roles in a family's situation. One of them can be to help open up the lines of communication, which often times is more difficult to do than people think. It's hard to talk about money with your family, especially with adult children who may or may not understand how money works other than to buy things. Money can be a solvent for some families, but when you have a close relationship with your financial advisor, the advisor can many times turn the solvent into a glue to bring the family back together and on the same page.

United Capital financial advisors take on many different roles and responsibilities when they work with families. Having a strong relationship with your adult children can become more difficult as they get older, but money should never be the reason why the relationship deteriorates. We are here to help smooth over any differences and help both sides understand how money works in a family. Don't hesitate to [contact us](#) to start the process of working with one of our experienced and helpful financial advisors. Or visit our [website](#) today.

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