

They are home, and they want to go home. Arguing about the address does not work, because the address is not what they are asking about. What they are saying is that something here feels wrong and they want to be somewhere safe.

RULE THIS OUT FIRST

A sudden change in behavior is a medical question before it is a behavioral one. New confusion, agitation, or a sharp decline over hours or days can be an infection, pain, dehydration, or a medication problem, and all of those are treatable. Call the doctor before you conclude this is the disease progressing.

WHAT TENDS TO WORK

- ☐ Answer the feeling rather than the fact. “You want to go home” before anything else.
- ☐ Ask about the home they mean. Often it is a childhood house, and the question becomes a conversation.
- ☐ Change the room, the light, or the activity. Movement resolves more than reasoning does.
- ☐ Offer food or a drink. Hunger and thirst show up as agitation more often than anyone expects.
- ☐ Check the clock. Late afternoon is a common time for this, and it will pass.
- ☐ Agree to go later, then move on. A promise you will not keep is kinder than an argument you will lose.

WHAT TENDS NOT TO WORK

- ☐ Correcting them. Being told you are wrong about where you live is frightening, not clarifying.
- ☐ Explaining the diagnosis. It will not be remembered and it lands as an accusation.
- ☐ Reasoning from evidence. Photographs and documents rarely persuade and often escalate.
- ☐ Raising your voice, which they will read as danger even when the words are calm.

WHAT WE SAW, AND WHAT WORKED

Every family finds a few things that work for their person and nobody else's. Write them down, because the next person in this house will not know them.

Date and time	What set it off, if we know	What we tried	Did it help?

WHAT WE NOW KNOW SETTLES THEM

Copy this onto the What a Good Day Looks Like sheet so a substitute has it.
