



# TAKACS MCGINNIS

## ELDER CARE LAW

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### **10 Creative Holiday Ideas for Togetherness When You Can't Be Together**

Whether it is a global pandemic or another obstacle foreseen or not, sometimes you cannot gather with the ones you love. A 50-year research review found that “family routines and rituals are powerful organizers of family life that offer stability during times of stress and transition.” Hence the importance of being creative to continue these meaningful holiday traditions especially during challenging times.

- 1.) Virtual Board Games** – Are playing board games while digesting the holiday meal a part of your family's tradition. Apps like Jackbox ([jackboxgames.com](http://jackboxgames.com)) and Houseparty ([houseparty.com](http://houseparty.com)) will allow the tradition to continue virtually.
- 2.) Drive-by Greetings**- Decorate your car and create signs to drive by your loved ones' homes – a parade just them. Prepping the car and signs can be a family event in itself.
- 3.) Watch Movies Together** – Are your family members movie buffs? Maybe instead of everyone vegging out on the same couch, you can join each other on [Netflixparty.com](http://Netflixparty.com) to watch movies together from your respective homes. But don't worry, you don't need a special app for this. You can always zoom together and hit play at the same time.
- 4.) Facetime**- If you have a smart phone, it is a great way to not only do group chats, but also play interactive games like karaoke, charades and Pictionary.
- 5.) Digital Care Packages** – When you don't want to leave your home to shop or mail a package, you can always send a digital care package. A few ideas include: a Kindle or Audible subscription, gift cards to restaurants, spas or other services they can use later on.
- 6.) Attend a Virtual Concert Together** – Lots of musicians are doing live sets from home and streaming them online.



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- 7.) **Go on a Virtual Trip Together** – National parks, museums and wonders like the Great Wall of China have virtual tours online. You can view them on streaming services like YouTube. You can see sights that you may have never gotten to see in person.
- 8.) **Virtual Recipe Swap and Cooking Party** - Talk with family members to get those treasured holiday recipes. Perhaps family members could set up a video cooking call to exchange recipes or you can even do virtual cooking where Aunt Susie leads the call walking everyone through making her famous dressing.
- 9.) **Socially Distant Meal Swap** - This would work if you live close to family. Participants make their special dish and packages it up in to go containers. Family can “meet” and each participant can pick up and leave dishes so everyone goes away with the traditional family dishes they love that can be reheated and enjoyed on the holiday.
- 10.) **Keep it Simple** – Sometimes the KISS (Keep it Simple Stupid) method is the best. Nothing is wrong with an old fashioned phone call or handwritten note. With all the wonderful technology available at our fingertips, sometimes we forget that simple pleasures are sometimes just as rewarding.