

Worksheet for Choosing a Residential Care Facility

First Impressions

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- Is the staff pleasant, friendly, and helpful?
- Do the people who live there seem comfortable and happy?
- Is the building clean and odor free?
- Is there a place for private conversation?
- Is there an outside patio or garden area?
- Is there a private area for visiting with family and friends?
- Is my loved one's language spoken at the facility? If not, how will they communicate with my loved one?
- Is my language spoken at the facility? If not, how will the staff communicate with me?
- Is the facility in a good location (close enough for friends and family to visit)? Is there a bus stop and stores nearby?
- Is there parking for visitors?
- Are family and friends encouraged to visit?

General Policies

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- Can my loved one bring his/her own belongings, pictures to hang, keepsakes, etc.?
- Will my loved one be sharing a room? Is there an extra charge for a private room?
- Can my loved one have his/her own telephone and/or television?
- What are the rules about visiting? Hours? Children? Pets?
- What are the rules about leaving the care facility for a short period of time? (vacation, home visits, hospitalization, holidays)

Resident Bedrooms

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- Is the room cheerful, clean, and well-decorated?
- Is there a window to look out of? What is the view?
- Are the bed and chair comfortable?
- Is there enough space to move a wheelchair around, if needed?
- How much storage and closet space is available?
- Is there a locked cupboard or drawer?
- Is there adequate lighting?
- Is there a call system?
- Can my loved one's personal physician care for me after he/she is living in the facility?
- How many staff are on duty at night?
- What is the staff/resident ratio during the day and evening?

- Is the care facility connected with a pharmacy for medications?
- What are the rules about showers and baths?
- Does a foot doctor visit the facility on a regular schedule? What is the schedule?
- Are items familiar to the resident's past part of his or her room?
- Does the facility have a Social Worker that can help my loved one or me if needed?

Personal Services

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- What clothing can be sent to the laundry?
- How often does the housekeeping staff clean the bedroom?
- Is the staff available to take my loved one to medical appointments?

Food Service

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- How is the food prepared?
- Is the dining room clean and pleasant?
- What are the dining times? Can my loved one's breakfast hour be changed?
- Are there snacks between meals?
- May guests be invited to stay for a meal?

Activities and Programs

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- Can my loved one pursue his/her own hobbies in the care facility?
- Are there church services held in the care facility? Will a minister or rabbi visit if desired?

The Physical Environment

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- Is there enough room for residents to walk and move about freely?
- Is there a safe and secure outside area?
- Are the residents' bedrooms private?
- Are there separate areas for dining and activities? Do these areas look as "normal" as they would in a home.

The Approach to Care

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- Are care routines flexible? Is the staff willing and able to adjust their timing of care to fit the needs of the resident?
- Does the staff use a resident care program that provides them with specific information about each resident's routine, background, preferences, etc.?
- Is the client's family considered a key part of the care process? Are they welcomed and in encouraged to be involved in care decisions? Are they kept informed?