

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Checklist: Things to Consider

The following checklist on choosing assisted living is an excerpt from the Assisted Living Federation of America's *Guide to Choosing an Assisted Living Residence*. Take this checklist with you when you tour the different communities and use it to help you evaluate the services, features, and policies offered by those communities. Rate them from 1-10 (10 being the best score).

### **Atmosphere Score** \_\_\_\_\_

- As you arrive at the residence, do you like its location and outward appearance?
- As you enter the lobby and tour the residence, is the decor attractive and homelike?
- Do you receive a warm greeting from staff welcoming you to the residence?
- Does the administrator/staff call residents by name and interact warmly with them as you tour the residence?
- Do residents socialize with each other and appear happy and comfortable?
- Are you able to talk with residents about how they like the residence and staff?
- Do the residents seem to be appropriate housemates for you or your loved one?
- Are staff members appropriately dressed, personable, and outgoing?
- Do the staff members treat each other in a professional manner?
- Are the staff members that you pass during your tour friendly to you?
- Are visits with the resident welcome at any time?

### **Physical Features Score** \_\_\_\_\_

- Is the community well-designed for your needs?
- Is the floor plan easy to follow?
- Are doorways, hallways, and rooms accommodating to wheelchairs and walkers?
- Are elevators available for those unable to use stairways?
- Does a physician or nurse visit residents regularly to provide medical checkups?
- To what extent are medical services available, and how are these services provided?
- Are handrails available to aid in walking?
- Are cupboards and shelves easy to reach?
- Are floors made of a non-skid material and carpets firm to ease walking?
- Does the residence have good natural and artificial lighting?
- Is the residence clean, free of odors, and appropriately heated/cooled?
- Does the residence have sprinklers and clearly marked exits?
- Does the residence have a means of security if a resident wanders?

### **Needs Assessments, Contracts, Costs & Finances Score** \_\_\_\_\_

- Is a contractual agreement available that discloses healthcare and supportive services, all fees, as well as admission and discharge provisions? What are the policies for refunds and transfers?
- Is there a written plan for the care of each resident?
- Does the residence have a process for assessing a potential resident's need for services and are those needs addressed periodically?

- Does this process include the resident, and his or her family and facility staff, along with the potential resident’s physician?
- Are there any government, private, or corporate programs available to help cover the cost of services to the resident?

**Services Score** \_\_\_\_\_

- Is staff available to meet scheduled and unscheduled needs?
- Can the residence provide a list of services available?
- Is staff available to provide 24-hour assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) if needed? ADLs include dressing, eating, mobility, hygiene and grooming, bathing, toileting, using the telephone, shopping, and laundry.
- Is transportation provided?
- Are pharmacy, barber/beautician, physician services offered on-site?
- Are activities provided?

**Fees**

Monthly \_\_\_\_\_

General Deposit \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Deposit (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Levels of Care \_\_\_\_\_

Taxes - Included or Not \_\_\_\_\_

Refunds/Transfer Fees \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_

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