



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

In An Assisted
Living Facility

Learn the right questions to ask
and the key visuals to observe

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CHOOSING AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY IN FLORIDA

Placing a loved one in a assisted living facility can be accomplished with a limited amount of stress if you know what to look for. This list has been created to help you make the very best choice possible for you and your loved one.

Please read through each of the items below carefully. Don't hesitate to print this checklist and take it with you as a reference. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the number provided on the bottom of page two.

Looking for an Assisted Living? Here is what to look for:

As you walk around observe the following:

- "Sniff Test."---walk around and if there are any fowl odors (urine/ bowel, general odor). This would indicate a problem.
- Examine the floors, corners, private bathrooms, ceilings, etc., checking for cleanness.
- Talk with the staff as you tour the facility---note their reaction to you.
- Observe how the staff relates to the residents.
- Visit a least 3 to 4 facilities and make a solid comparison.
- If you have a computer, check out any deficiencies or infarctions listed on - <http://www.ahca.myflorida.com>. Go to consumer information on the left side of the screen.

Questions to explore:

- Review the rental contract or agreement to make sure you understand everything.
- Ask if rent is pro-rated if resident moves in after the first of the month?
- In the event the resident is unable to return, will the rent be prorated?
- What notice is required in the event the resident desires to leave?
- What happens if resident runs out of money? What are the alternatives?
- Are there any financial programs available to assist with rent/care?
- Is there a move-in fee, entry fee or community fees involved? If so are they refundable if you change your mind, decided to move out or in the event of death?
- What services are included with the apartment rent?

- What is the cost of additional services?
- Do we supply the furnishings (furniture, pictures for walls, linens, lamps, etc.)?
- What is included in the actual apartment (refrigerator, microwave, window treatments)?
- What type of activities are available and how do they encourage the resident's participation?
- Ask for an activity calendar.
- Ask about meals and if they would provide you with a copy of a menu?
- What type of emergency call system do they have?
- What provisions are made in the event the resident is in need of more skilled care?

ASSISTED LIVING CHECKLIST

Location

- Will the location be convenient for family and friends to visit? As your loved one needs additional care and support, you will probably wish to visit more frequently.
- Is the area of town the community is in safe and free of crime?
- Are there shopping centers and entertainment opportunities nearby? Is there a nearby hospital?
- Is there a physician that makes rounds onsite? If not, how far away is it to a physician's office?

Physical Plant

- Does the community seem clean and well maintained?
- Is the community free from odors?
- Is the community handicap-accessible (doorways, sidewalks, hallways, and rooms)?
- Are there features like handrails in the hallways and elevators if the community has more than one floor?
- Are there handrails in the bathrooms?

- Is there a walk in shower? Is there room for a wheelchair?
- How far is the walk from apartments to the common areas such as the dining room and activities areas?
- Is there a 24hour emergency response system? Ask to see it and be sure it is accessible in the bathroom as well as the main living and bedroom areas of the apartment.
- Are there smoke alarms and sprinklers in the apartment and throughout the community?
- Are residents allowed to decorate their apartment as they like including hanging pictures on walls?
- Are exterior doors kept locked during the daytime hours? In the evenings?

Personal Care & Assistance

- Is there a nurse onsite 24/7? Or is there a nurse on call 24/7? What are their credentials?
- What specific services are included in the monthly fee? Are there additional level of care charges? What services are not included?
- What type of credentials do their caregivers have and what kind training do they receive?
- Are residents allowed to age in place? If not, at what point are they required to move to a higher level of care?
- If residents are allowed to age in place, what services are available when they need additional care?
- Are there any programs in place to help with residents who might wander?
- Is staff available to help with ADLs (activities of daily living) 24hours a day?
- Does staff assist a resident in taking medications? Is there an additional fee for this?
- If they are able to, are residents allowed to administer their own medications?

- What is the process for handling medical emergencies?
- Are housekeeping and laundry services included in the monthly fee? If not, how much are residents charged for these services?

Program Services

- Are there planned activities that allow residents the chance to socialize while recognizing they may have limited mobility and physical challenges?
- Are events and activities planned for evenings and weekends too?
- Are there intergenerational events planned with local schools, scout troops, and youth organizations?
- Are there additional fees to participate in daily programs? Are there planned outings to entertainment complexes and events in the community on a weekly basis?
- Is the transportation that takes residents on outings handicapped accessible?

Dining Services

- Are all three meals included in the monthly fee?
- Are beverages and healthy snacks available all day long?
- Does a dietician help in menu planning?
- Does the dining room and kitchen look and smell clean? Are tables and chairs clean and in good repair?
- Can the community accommodate special dietary needs?
- Is the dining room easily accessible to those with wheelchairs? Are there staff members available to help escort residents to the dining room at meal time?
- Observe a meal and note if there is additional staff to help accommodate the increased physical needs assisted living residents sometimes require.

Talk With Current Residents & Family Members

Introduce yourself to family members you see arriving and departing as you

tour. Ask them how long their loved one has lived there? What do they like and dislike about the community?

Introduce yourself to residents you pass on the tour. Ask them how long they've lived there and how they like it. Ask current residents what they like and don't like about the community. Pay attention to the appearance of current residents. Do they seem cared for and well groomed?

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