

# Care MATTERS® LIST ASSISTED, INDEPENDENT & SUPPORTIVE LIVING

Looking to eliminate chores from your life? Tired of cutting the lawn and cleaning out gutters? Consider an independent or retirement living community designed for care-free senior living. Or, if the elder is not doing well alone at home, an assisted living facility may be the perfect solution. This is a residence which allows a senior to live independently, but receive whatever care is needed.

## WHAT ARE YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS

- 1) As you approach the community, look at the buildings and grounds. Are they attractive and well cared for? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) As you tour the facility:  Is it clean and odor-free?  Are the furnishings attractive and homey? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Do residents have:  Easy access to the outdoors?  Paths to take walks?  Benches to sit outside? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Does the community have a good reputation in the neighborhood/city? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Is the location:  Convenient to family and friends?  Close to public transportation?  Have enough parking?  
 Close to your doctor?  Close to health care?  Near a hospital?

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECK ON SAFETY ISSUES

- 6) Look for:  An inspection notice.  A posted emergency evacuation plan.
- 7) Is the main door locked? \_\_\_\_\_ Do residents have keys? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Are there clearly marked exits (unlocked from inside)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Did you notice:  Smoke detectors?  Sprinklers?  An up-to-date fire inspection certificate? \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

## FOCUS ON THE EMPLOYEES

- 10) Is the staff:  Mannerly and friendly?  Professionally dressed?  Interacting with residents, calling them by name?
- 11) How many staff members are on each shift? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the staff to resident ratio? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Is there:  An RN present at all times? \_\_\_\_\_  A doctor on call? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Are the staff members:  Licensed?  Have certificates in CPR?  Experienced in personal care and dementia?
- 14) Will the staff perform an individual assessment on each resident and provide all the care noted? \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR FUTURE HOME

- 15) As you look at the units notice:  Is the bathroom wheelchair-accessible?  Are there grab bars? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is there a kitchenette in each unit? \_\_\_\_\_  Is it large enough and have adequate closets? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Can residents decorate according to their own tastes? \_\_\_\_\_  Bring in their own furniture? \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) Are optional services available, and if so, at what cost?  Transportation \_\_\_\_\_  Housekeeping \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shopping/grocery delivery \_\_\_\_\_  Beauty shop/barber \_\_\_\_\_  Cable TV \_\_\_\_\_  
 Internet access \_\_\_\_\_  Pet care \_\_\_\_\_  Additional live-in help \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) Food is vital:  Are menus available for review? \_\_\_\_\_  Is there variety and choices at each meal? \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

## PAPERWORK

- 18) Review the residency agreements:  What are the monthly costs? \_\_\_\_\_  An initial deposit? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is there an increase for optional services? \_\_\_\_\_  Is there a cap on annual increases? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What is the notice time for increases? \_\_\_\_\_  Does the facility take Medicaid? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What happens when money runs out? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anything confusing or vague in agreement? \_\_\_\_\_  Any rules concern you? \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_



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