

How To Select an Assisted Care Facility

By Joe Talent

There are many things to consider when preparing to move into an assisted care facility. One important facet to consider is the living space and accommodations. These will vary greatly but are most important when deciding where to live. Some things to consider are listed below.

Are there adequate community areas for resident use? One of the key components of moving into any multi-family community is the relationships you can build with your neighbors. The community areas will facilitate friendships. Is equipment (such as hobby supplies, easels, yarn, etc.) available and are the residents using the equipment? Whether you are continuing long time hobbies or want to develop new ones, you may want to know if the facility can accommodate your hobby.

Are the resident rooms furnished or unfurnished? Regardless of how much furniture you now own, some of it is probably going to have to go into storage or be sold. Your new residence is likely to have a smaller living space than where you currently live. What is the policy about personal belongings? You may have to give up even your most prized possessions.

What is the policy for overnight guests? If out of town family come to visit where are they going to stay? If your new residence has restrictions on overnight guests you may want to find a nearby hotel that will accommodate visiting friends and family. Are there guestrooms available? What are the guest fees? Is outdoor furniture available for residents and visitors? A smaller residence can restrict your young visitors. An outdoor living space can help relieve some of the small space stress of the grand kids coming to visit.

Is additional storage space available? Is there an extra fee? You are going to have personal belongings that you will just not have room for. Check on available storage areas for residents or find a low cost storage facility.

Does the residence meet the rules for people with disabilities? Most assisted care facilities are going to have many accommodations for disabled residents. However, an older facility may not include some of the conveniences most new facilities will include.

Can residents have automobiles? Many facilities provide transportation for residents and discourage self transportation or charge an additional fee for parking.

Are there patios and courtyards available for resident use? The outdoor community living space is an important feature for residents who expect many visitors. Is there an area for resident gardening? If you enjoy growing flowers or a few of your own vegetables you will want to ask about a community garden area.

Is exercise equipment available? You might not want a large selection of free weights, but to keep in shape and feeling good an exercise facility with a nice selection of easy to use equipment can be a feature that will keep you active and healthy.

Does the residence provide security? An on-site security agent can provide a sense of comfort and feeling of a safer community.

Are pets allowed to reside in the residence? If so, are there additional fees and or deposits? If you have a pet you will want to be sure and find a facility that allows pets. You are going to have plenty of changes just by moving into a new home. Giving up your friend for life can add more stress.

Asking some of the questions above can help you find an assisted care facility that is a great fit for your lifestyle and help make your experience smooth and a move to look forward to.

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