

## **Assisted Living Tour Check List**

Choosing an assisted living residence is an important and difficult decision. Below is an excerpt from the Assisted Living Federation of America's *Guide to Choosing an Assisted Living Residence*. Bring this checklist with you when you tour each community to help you evaluate and compare the different services, features and amenities offered by each facility.

### **Atmosphere**

- 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 décor 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 appropriately dressed, personable and outgoing?
- Do the staff members treat each other in a professional manner?
- Are the staff members that you pass during the tour friendly to you?
- Are visits with the residents welcome at any time?

### **Physical Features**

- Is the community well-designed for you 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 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 & Financials**

- 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

- 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 (ADL's) if needed? ADL's include dressing, eating, mobility, hygiene and grooming, bathing, toileting, using the telephone, shopping and laundry.
- Does the residence provide housekeeping services in resident's unit?
- Can residents arrange for transportation on fairly short notice?
- Are pharmacy, barber/beautician and/or physical therapy services offered on-site?

Source Copyright 2007 Assisted Living Federation of America,  
[www.alfa.org](http://www.alfa.org) (Original title: *Guide to choosing an Assisted Living Residence: Consumer Checklist*)