

# 35 QUESTIONS TO CHECK OFF TO INSURE YOU ARE CHOOSING THE RIGHT COMMUNITY

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Choosing the right assisted living facility should be an involved and carefully thought-out process. Picking the right assisted living facility is as important as choosing a house or apartment.

Visit the facilities you are considering, talk to the staff and residents, and read through any brochures and information offered. Make several visits at varying times of the day and week in order to get a complete impression of the facility. When you tour the facilities, pay special attention to the attitudes and overall friendliness of the staff and residents because they are potential housemates. Find out which state and federal regulations apply, and make sure that the facility properly complies with them. Most importantly, involve loved ones in making your decision.

**The following are things to consider when choosing a facility include:**

- 1) Do you gain an immediate sense of warmth and comfort?  
YES  NO   
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Is the community location appealing?  
YES  NO   
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Is the outside of the building well maintained?  
YES  NO   
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Are the common areas clean and inviting?  
YES  NO   
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Is the floor plan of the building easy to understand?  
YES  NO   
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Are the hallways and rooms designed to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers and promote safety in movement?  
YES  NO   
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Are there emergency response systems in bathrooms and bedrooms?  
YES  NO   
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Is there easy access to outdoor areas such as courtyards?  
YES  NO   
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

9) Does the community smell fresh?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

10) Are the sounds that you hear pleasant?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

11) Can you imagine friends and family comfortably visiting you or your loved one there?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

12) Do they offer an a-la-carte choice of care or do you have to purchase a package, which may include services you do not need?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

13) Do they offer a continuum of care:

Are there additional services available should they become necessary?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

14) Do they offer a guarantee?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

15) Do they allow pets?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

16) Are they family owned?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

17) Do they have a good reputation in the community?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

STAFF:

18) Are staff members appropriately trained?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

19) Is there a high turnover of staff?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

20) Do you receive warm greetings from the staff? Are they personable and outgoing?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

21) Are staff members appropriately dressed?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

22) Do staff members greet residents by their first name and interact warmly with them?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE RESIDENTS:**

23) Does a nurse visit residents regularly?

Or better yet, do they have a nurse on staff?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

24) Are residents socializing or engaged in meaningful activities?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

25) Do residents appear happy and content?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

26) Talk with the residents. Do they like the community and the staff?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

27) Request a daily schedule or calendar.

What is the quality of the regular activities available? Do they have a great variety of wellness and fitness classes available? Do they have 2 to 3 full time staff members in the Activities department?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

28) Do they have a fall prevention program?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FOOD:**

29) Do they have a diabetes program?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

30) Do they prepare the meals, fresh, on-site every day?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

31) Do they offer all day dining?

YES  NO

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

