

Checklist For Touring Assisted Living Facilities

As promised, here's a handy checklist you'll want to print out and take with you when you schedule a tour at an assisted living facility. Don't schedule a tour without it!

Staff

- How many people work as staff members of the assisted living facility?
What are their qualifications?
- How many years has the staff worked here?
Do most employees stay long?
- Are employees subjected to a background check before they're hired?
- Is the staff available 24/7?

Food Service

- When do residents eat?
Is it at select times or at the senior's choosing?
- Where does a senior eat?
At the cafeteria or dining hall?
Can they eat in their room or have meals brought to them if they are sick?
- Are there enough seats in the cafeteria or dining hall for all residents to eat at once?
- Are the cafeterias or dining halls kept clean between meals?
How so?
- What kind of food are the seniors fed?
Are these meals balanced and nutritious?
- Can the seniors eat snacks in between if they get hungry or are these not offered?
- If a resident has a special diet, such as food allergies, will they be accommodated?
- Are meals offered only on weekdays or every day?
How many meals are offered per day?

Activities

- Is the senior allowed to keep a pet?
If so, which type of pet and how big?
Will the staff help care for it if necessary?
- What kind of activities are offered to residents?
Do these change daily, weekly, or monthly to keep things interesting?
- Are seniors taken off the premises for field trips and activities or are they confined to the facility only?

Units

- Does the senior's room come with phone, Internet, and cable?
- Are appliances included or will these have to be provided?
- Do the doors lock?
Can the residents lock the doors themselves or will staff do it?
- Is storage space offered?
If so, is it adequate?
- How big are the rooms?
Are larger (or smaller) ones available?
- Does a senior get to choose the size of their room or the type of room?
- Do the rooms include a bathroom?
Do the bathrooms have options for the handicapped?

Safety

- Are the exits easily accessible to all staff and residents?
- What happens in an emergency?
Does the facility ever test for emergencies?
- Does the facility have fire extinguishers, sprinklers, and smoke detectors?
- Are the floors carpeted or non-skid?

Healthcare

- When a senior has a medical emergency, how do they get in touch with staff?
Can they do so from their room?
Who will respond and how fast?
- How often does medical staff visit residents?
Who will visit?
Will be it a doctor or nurse?
- Can seniors take medication on their own if they're able?
- Who will remind them to take medication, if necessary, and how?