

Memory Care Checklist

Provided by Elder Answers, 619-538-9155

Physical Building and Grounds:

Is the building secure?

Is the building easy to navigate? Are hallways and rooms clearly marked for recognition?

Does the building have inside and outside areas? How large is the outside area?

Are the residents free to come and go from inside to outside? If not, how often can/do they go outside?

How much room is there to walk or wander?

What are the bedrooms and bathrooms like and how are they set up? Shared, private, shower or no shower?

Care:

Is each resident given an individual plan of care?

How many residents are there? Are they divided up by area, unit or "neighborhood"?

What kind of care can the community NOT provide? Bedridden, wheelchair bound, use a lift, need injections?

Are residents grouped by cognitive ability?

How are medical emergencies handled?

How are disruptive behaviors handled?

How are history of falls handled?

How much time passes before a caregiver checks on a resident? Day and night?

Is someone available to reach at the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

Admission:

What is the process for assessing a resident before moves in?

Is there a fee for an assessment?

Is there a fee for admission and if so, what does it cover?

If you leave a deposit for admission, is it refundable?

How much notice does the community need if you decide to move out?

Care Costs:

Is the community month to month rental?

Are the community costs all-inclusive or are there separate fees for care?

If there are separate fees, how are those fees calculated and what will they be?

How often will you be invoiced and when is payment due?

Staff:

What kind of training does the staff have?

What kind of experience does the staff need to be hired?

Is there a nurse on staff or on site? RN or LVN? How many hours/days?

Is there a doctor on staff? Is there a psychologist on staff?

Does the staff appear knowledgeable? Warm and caring?

Does the staff call residents by name?

What is the caregiver to resident ratio?

Activities:

What is the resident's daily schedule and what kind of activities does it include?

Do some activities take the residents out of the building? If so, how often?

What is the procedure if a resident declines participating in an activity?

Philosophy and Feel:

What is the community's philosophy of care and how is it carried out?

What therapies do they offer? Music, pet, art, reminiscence, other?

How does the community "feel" to you? Does it feel like somewhere your loved one will be able to eventually call home?

Licensing:

When was the last licensing inspection? Ask to see a report. Do they have any citations or complaints, and if so, what are they for?