

Questionnaire: Will the Physical Layout Meet Your Needs?

Each of your visits should include a tour of the building, grounds, and neighborhood, and should offer sufficient opportunity to ask questions. Here's what to look for on your visits.

Note: This questionnaire contains five pages and 12 categories. Focus on the categories that matter to you.

1. Entrance

- Does it allow easy access outdoors and to the rest of the building?
- Can I enter from the street without using steps?
- Is there room for wheelchairs and walkers?
- Are residents engaged in socializing or participating in activities in the lobby and other public areas? Or do too many seem stuck in their rooms?

Notes _____

2. Individual Units

- Is there variation in the design and decoration of the resident units?
- How much of my own furniture and furnishings can I bring?
- Can I arrange furniture as I like?
- Do I have a key to my unit? Can I lock the door from the inside?
- Who else would have access to my unit?
- Do I have individual temperature control?
- Can I have overnight guests without checking with management?
- What storage space is available?

Notes _____

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3. Kitchen

- If there is a kitchen or kitchenette, can I reach the cupboards?
- What appliances are provided?
- What appliances may I have in my room (e.g., a small refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, tea kettle)?
- If there's no kitchen, what opportunities are there to prepare my own meals?

Notes _____

4. Bathroom

- Are bathrooms shared or private?
- Are there safety railings in the bathroom and a seat in the shower or tub?
- Are there call bells in the unit? In the bathroom?

Notes _____

5. Dining Room

- What food choices do I have?
- Can I choose when to take my breakfast, lunch, and dinner?
- What if I'm hungry at 2 a.m.?
- How is dining room seating arranged, and what are my options?
- Can I eat alone?
- Can I eat in my room?

Notes _____

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6. Common Areas

- Where are the common areas for residents?
- What activities do they provide for residents (e.g., social lounges, quiet sitting areas, a library, a games or hobbies room)?

Notes _____

7. Hallways

- Are there handrails?
- Is the lighting adequate?
- Are the floors non-skid?
- Is it easy to find my way around the building?

Notes _____

8. Lighting, Layout, and Physical Condition

- Is the lighting bright?
- Do I like the layout?
- Does the building seem in good shape?

Notes _____

9. Outside Areas

- Are there communal areas including covered porches protected from the weather?
- Are they safe (enclosed, visible from facility, with call bells)?
- Are there sidewalks, paths, and walkways accessible to people in wheelchairs or using canes and walkers?
- Are there benches and chairs for resting?

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- Are tables available?

Notes _____

10. Staff

- Do staff members refer to residents by name?
- Do they treat residents with dignity and respect?
- Do they seem to care about the residents? Do they ignore residents or seem patronizing?
- Is my tour guide asking me about my own needs?
- For how many hours are staff trained in first aid, CPR, emotional needs, and residents' rights?
- If I speak a language other than English, is there staff available to understand me and communicate my needs and preferences to others?
- Is a nurse on staff?
- Do doctors visit periodically?
- Can I continue to use my current doctor?

Notes _____

11. Pets

- Is there a chance to keep my pet, which may help me feel much happier?
- If I'm allergic to pets or don't like them, is there a way for me to avoid them?

Notes _____

12. Neighborhood

- Is the residence integrated into the neighborhood or surrounding area?
- Is it in easy walking distance to local shops, a grocery, pharmacy, library, bank, post office, movie theater, park, church, mosque, or synagogue?
- Is public transportation or para-transit available?
- Is there enough outdoor space?
- Are the sidewalks flat?

Notes _____