

# CHOOSING A NURSING HOME

Here are some questions to think about as you research nursing homes. Bring a copy to each facility you visit and take notes so you can compare them later on.

Name of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. General Questions

- Is the location convenient? Yes / No
- Is the residence clean? Yes / No
- Is the residence free of urine odor? Yes / No
- Is the residence well maintained on the outside as well as inside? Yes / No
- Are you welcome any time of day on a tour, even on a walk-in basis? Yes / No
- Does the residence accept Medicaid? Yes / No
- If the home is private pay is there a required time period? Yes / No
- Does the residence offer a home-like comforting atmosphere? Yes / No
- Is visitation 24/7? Yes / No
- Is the residence For-Profit? Or, Not-For-Profit? Yes / No
- Is the residence part of a large chain/ conglomerate, or is it an independent free-standing facility? Yes / No
- Is the state survey accessible? Yes / No
- What kind of deficiencies did the most recent state survey uncover? (list) Yes / No
- What services are included in the monthly fee? Yes / No
- What services are offered for an additional charge? Yes / No

## 2. Quality of Life

Talk to the staff members, especially those providing hands-on services to residents.

Ranking 1 to 5 with 5 as the highest score.

- Do they appear competent and content in their jobs? 1 2 3 4 5
- Are residents treated with respect ? 1 2 3 4 5
- Is there longevity in staff – particularly in Administration? 1 2 3 4 5
- Can you picture your relative being cared for by these people? 1 2 3 4 5
- Are residents well groomed, dressed, out of bed? 1 2 3 4 5

(continued)

# CHOOSING A NURSING HOME *(continued)*

- Are residents out of their rooms? 1 2 3 4 5
- Is there privacy during personal care or treatment? 1 2 3 4 5
- Are residents' calls for assistance answered promptly? 1 2 3 4 5
- How many residents does a nurse or nurse's aide care for during the day, evening or night? \_\_\_\_ (day) \_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_ (night) 1 2 3 4 5

## 3. Rooms & the Residence in General

- Are rooms attractive, comfortable, clean, well kept? 1 2 3 4 5
- Have residents personalized their rooms? 1 2 3 4 5
- Do bedrooms open onto a corridor and have windows? 1 2 3 4 5
- Are there handrails in hallways? 1 2 3 4 5

## 4. Resident Lounge Areas

- Is there sufficient space and furniture for visitors, conversation, TV watching? 1 2 3 4 5
- Is there a place for private visits? 1 2 3 4 5

## 5. Activity Programs

- Is a schedule of daily events posted? 1 2 3 4 5
- Do the activities cover a range of different interests? 1 2 3 4 5
- Do activities meet the needs of residents' physical capabilities? 1 2 3 4 5
- Is there a resident council? 1 2 3 4 5
- Are there activities for patients confined to their bedrooms? 1 2 3 4 5
- Does the home have volunteers? 1 2 3 4 5

## 6. Dining Area and Menu

- Is the mealtime atmosphere to your liking? 1 2 3 4 5
- Does the food appear appetizing? 1 2 3 4 5
- Are residents satisfied with the quality of the food? 1 2 3 4 5
- Can residents get substitute meals when they do not like the menu? 1 2 3 4 5
- Are residents who need assistance helped promptly? 1 2 3 4 5
- May visitors join residents for meals? 1 2 3 4 5

*(continued)*

# CHOOSING A NURSING HOME *(continued)*

## 7. Bathrooms and Showers

- Are bathrooms, showers and tubs close to bedrooms? 1 2 3 4 5
- Is there a call button near the toilet? 1 2 3 4 5
- Is the toilet facility designed to accommodate wheelchairs? 1 2 3 4 5
- Are there grab bars? 1 2 3 4 5

## 8. Health Care

- Is a physician available for emergencies? 1 2 3 4 5
- If the resident needs hospitalization, which hospitals does the home have a contractual relationship with? 1 2 3 4 5
- Who is the facility's pharmacist or pharmacy consultant? 1 2 3 4 5
- Can residents use their own pharmacy? 1 2 3 4 5
- Is there a variety of therapeutic equipment? 1 2 3 4 5

For assistance or sorting out the best nursing care for your loved one, Manor Grove welcomes your questions by calling Staci Marshall at 314-965-0864.



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