

Getting started: Understanding the services offered

Assisted Living communities design their buildings to be welcoming and pleasant living environments. When selecting a provider, it is important to look beyond the design of the building and to look beyond the building's décor.

At the heart of what a specific Assisted Living community offers is a standardized form that is approved by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) You can request this form when you visit the community.

Each community also has a personality. The personality is comprised of the owner's imprint, the management's direction, and the caregiver's involvement with residents. The residents themselves also affect the overall personality of a community. The families and friends who visit have an impact. The feelings one experiences within each assisted living community. We are fortunate in our area to have over 200 communities all which offer varying levels of care, different levels of service, which attract people with varying personalities and interests.

The owners, management, and the person or persons in charge of Health Services can have an influence on what services are or are not offered; however, the community must comply and provide the services they outlined within each resident's care plan.

There are key issues regarding care of the body, care for people who have memory loss, and care for the psychosocial needs of people. Until such time that a consumer fully understands what the community has to offer, it is not wise to move ahead with plans for a move.

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