

CHOOSING A CARE HOME - CHECKLIST

Name & Address of Home _____

Contact at Home _____ Telephone Number _____

Location

- Is the home in the locality or community you've been used to?
- Is the home easy to get to for relatives and friends? Is it on a bus route? Does it have car parking?
- Is the home close to public transport and local amenities such as shops, churches or pubs?
- Are the surroundings too noisy?
- Are there interesting things to see outside?
- Are the views pleasant?

Comments or Observations _____

Accommodation

- Is the home well decorated, bright and cheery?
- Is the home clean with attractive decor?
- Does the home smell fresh and airy?
- Does it feel safe and secure or can people wander into the home?
- Is there useful equipment, such as lifts and specially equipped bathrooms?
- Is there wheelchair access indoors and outdoors?
- Are there handrails in hallways and corridors?
- Do residents have their own room and washing facilities?
- If sharing, is this organised to your satisfaction?
- Are bathrooms located conveniently for the rooms?
- Is the call bell system flexible and accessible?
- Is there a pleasant outlook from the bedroom window?
- Can you adjust the heating or open the windows in the room?
- Can personal possessions be accommodated, or a pet?
- Are there telephone and television sockets?
- Can you have your own telephone with a separate number?
- Are there communal lounge areas both with and without televisions?
- Is there a separate dining room? A bar?
- Can you have your own door key?

Comments or Observations _____

Type of Care

- Does the home offer the level of care you need?
- Is an increased level of care, or nursing care, available should you need it in the future?
- If you have a particular condition, does the home have the right experience and staff?

Comments or Observations _____

Facilities

- Are a variety of activities and outings available?
- Are there facilities for people with hearing/visual difficulties?
- Can valuables be secured and are personal possessions insured?
- Are the arrangements for laundry and room cleaning satisfactory?
- Is sufficient medical help available?
- Can residents have their own GP?
- Does a chiropodist/physiotherapist/hairdresser/dentist/optician visit regularly?
- Does someone bring library books?
- Can the home find you the time and space to pursue your present interests and hobbies?
- Does the home provide transport?

Comments or Observations _____

Catering

- Can you join residents for a meal as part of your visit?
- Is there a choice of menu?
- Are special diets catered for?
- Is the choice of food interesting, varied and good quality?
- Can you choose to take meals in your room if desired?
- May your visitors join you for refreshments or meals?
- Are meal times flexible?
- Is alcohol available if you would like it?

Comments or Observations _____

Daily Living

- Do you know some of the existing residents?
- Are the staff friendly and caring?
- Do residents look happy and well cared for?
- Do staff receive training?
- Is there adequate staff on duty day and night?
- Does each resident have his or her own personal care plan?
- Are there set times for getting up, going to bed, or having a bath, or can you choose?
- Are there smoking and non-smoking areas?
- Are visitors welcome at all times?
- Is there somewhere to see visitors in private?
- Is there a garden and can residents use it?
- Is there somewhere you can get privacy and peace and quiet, other than your bedroom?
- Can you help in the garden, help prepare meals, do your own laundry or help clean your own room if you want to?
- Can you follow your religious practice eg attend church services or observe kosher principles?

Comments or Observations _____

Fees

- How much are the fees?
- Is it clear exactly what is included in the weekly charges?
- Under what circumstances will fees alter or be reviewed?
- Are the fees affordable on a long term basis?
- Are the fees payable in advance?
- Will you have to make up the difference after state contribution?
- Will the home accommodate you on state support?
- Will the home provide a written contract of the care provided?

Comments or Observations _____

Overall _____

