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# Memory Care Community Evaluation Tool

Helping You Make the Right Choice with Confidence

## **Save Time. Reduce Stress. Simplify Decisions.**

Choosing the right senior housing or care option for your loved one can be overwhelming. This evaluation tool is designed to:

- Save you time by streamlining your evaluation process.
- Reduce your stress by giving you clarity and confidence.
- Simplify a complex decision into actionable steps.

We understand the challenges family caregivers face and we're here to help you navigate this journey.

## **Take the Next Step Today**

This evaluation tool is designed to help guide you to the best solution for your loved one. If you feel as if you need additional guidance, **book a free 30-minute consultation call here.**

You're not alone - we're here to help.



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## MEMORY CARE COMMUNITY EVALUATION TOOL

**Name of Community:**

**Street Address:**

**City/State/Zip Code:**

**Telephone (Landline):**

**Telephone (Mobile):**

**Email Address:**

**Date of Visit:**

**Representative(s):**

### **Neighborhood/Area Characteristics**

- ☐ The community is located near family and friends
- ☐ The community is situated in a safe neighborhood
- ☐ Shopping and entertainment centers are easily accessible should you need to visit either one before or after your visit
- ☐ Hospitals and clinics are in close proximity

### **Community Reception and Atmosphere**

- ☐ All visitors receive a prompt and warm welcome
- ☐ The staff members are friendly and courteous
- ☐ Staff members address current residents by name and show respect and familiarity
- ☐ Current residents appear to be well cared for, well-groomed and appropriately dressed
- ☐ You feel safe, at ease, and comfortable in the community
- ☐ The staff gives careful attention to all your questions and input

### **Quality of Life & Wellness Programs**

- ☐ A calendar of planned social, recreational, and therapeutic activities is available, is consistent, and is appropriate for seniors who exhibit memory loss
- ☐ Staff members are specifically trained for working with seniors suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia
- ☐ Care plans are tailored for each individual resident
- ☐ Staff members assist with activities as well as participate in them
- ☐ Activity programs help residents feel more productive
- ☐ Families are encourage to participate in the care planning for the resident
- ☐ Residents can bring personal items and furnishings to create a more home-like environment
- ☐ A secure outdoor area with walking paths is available



### **Quality of Life & Wellness Programs (Continued)**

- ☐ There are other levels of care available in this community:
  - ☐ Independent Living
  - ☐ Assisted Living
  - ☐ Skilled Nursing

### **Dining/Food Service**

- ☐ Resident nutritional requirements are assessed and their meal services are adapted accordingly
- ☐ Resident nutrition is tracked and their weight is monitored
- ☐ There is a dedicated memory care dining room with its own dedicated staff
- ☐ The dining room is peaceful, with no loud music or excessive activity
- ☐ The dining room is relatively small so as to help reduce distractions during mealtimes
- ☐ Assigned seating is utilized so that residents dine in the same spot at every meal
- ☐ Finger foods are available for residents who exhibit difficulty with utensils
- ☐ Tables, chairs and linens are clean and well-maintained
- ☐ A dietitian or nutritionist is involved in creating the meal plans
- ☐ Assistance getting to and from the dining room, as well as assistance with eating are available, as needed

### **Amenities & Services**

- ☐ The community has a written care plan for each resident
- ☐ Routine cleaning and maintenance of the resident living space is provided
- ☐ Laundry and linen services are provided
- ☐ Utilities are included in the monthly rent:
  - ☐ Water/sewage
  - ☐ Electricity
  - ☐ Cable/internet
  - ☐ Telephone
- ☐ Trash removal is provided
- ☐ Transportation services, including arranging private transportation, are available
- ☐ Security is on hand around the clock
- ☐ A plan is available for any resident who needs additional care and has to relocate to another senior living community
- ☐ Nurse's station or wellness clinic is available
- ☐ Communal living areas are well-lighted and are convenient and comfortable
- ☐ Beauty salon/barber shop



### **Contract & Pricing Structure**

- ☐ Monthly rent covers:
  - ☐ Housing
  - ☐ Personal care assistance
  - ☐ Specialized memory care services
  - ☐ Basic Utilities
  - ☐ Three meals per day, plus snacks
  - ☐ Housekeeping
  - ☐ Laundry
  - ☐ Scheduled Transportation
  - ☐ Activities
- ☐ Extra fees are charged for additional services over and above those in the basic monthly rent
- ☐ Community charges additional fees for extra meals or guest meals
- ☐ The community offers additional care services and provides details as to how these additional care levels are determined
- ☐ Information on other additional fees such as for special events or guest accommodations is provided
- ☐ The community requires a security deposit or community fee and specifies the terms for this deposit, including any conditions for its return
- ☐ Information on the length of the contract or lease agreement is provided as well as any penalties for early termination
- ☐ Renter's insurance is required
- ☐ All costs are clearly explained and the community is transparent about any potential future increases or changes in fees or rent
- ☐ A plan is available if a resident runs out of money
- ☐ A list of conditions is provided under which a resident would have to leave the community
- ☐ Pricing sheets for floor plans, contract types and care services are available

### **Building, Grounds & Maintenance**

- ☐ Community is clean, well-maintained, and free from odors
- ☐ Grounds are landscaped and well kept
- ☐ Ample parking is provided for residents and visitors
- ☐ Interior of the building is well lit and exits are well marked
- ☐ Parking area is convenient and well lit
- ☐ Safety features are in place such as handrails and grab bars
- ☐ The community has security cameras and secure entrances
- ☐ Resident units are designed for private or semi-private occupancy
- ☐ Resident units have private bathrooms that are visible and easily accessible for someone with memory loss
- ☐ Doors are locked and there is a system to alert staff if a resident wanders out



### **Building, Grounds & Maintenance (Continued)**

- ☐ Resident units have safety features including smoke detectors and a fire suppression system
- ☐ Additional storage is available
- ☐ The community has an emergency generator or alternate power source
- ☐ The building provides a secure living environment that keeps residents safe from wandering
- ☐ The building design includes modifications that help residents orient themselves

### **Staffing**

- ☐ Information on the staff-to-resident ratio is provided; this ratio is higher than for a typical assisted living community
- ☐ Staff members undergo background checks prior to employment
- ☐ Staff members are evaluated for their ability to work in a memory care community
- ☐ Staff undergo ongoing training and professional development specifically for memory care
- ☐ A nurse is on-site or on-call 24/7
- ☐ A medical doctor is on-call 24/7
- ☐ Other staff members are available 24/7
- ☐ The community utilizes temporary employment agencies
- ☐ The community utilizes vetted and trained volunteers
- ☐ A plan is in place for medical emergencies, natural disasters and other crises

### **Ownership and Financial Items**

- ☐ The name of the owner/operator of the community is provided and the length of time they've been in business
- ☐ Information on planned changes in ownership or management is provided
- ☐ Information on plans for expansion or renovation is provided and how it will be financed
- ☐ Occupancy reports are available
- ☐ The community's most recent state survey is available for review
- ☐ Explanation of how annual rate increases are implemented is provided
- ☐ Community invests in capital improvements
- ☐ Residents are involved in or informed about major decisions



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## **NOTES**