

Making the Decision

Moving to Assisted Living

The Decision to move to an assisted living community can be complicated. Everyone wants to stay or keep their loved one in their own home. There will come a time when that is no longer possible without assistance. Assistance may be a family member helping a little a few times a week, daily professional assistance or even 24/7 full time assistance.

Deciding to move to an assisted living community is a personal and difficult decision. We all want what is best for our loved ones. The considerations and issues include personal needs, health issues, financial resources, family resources, and community resources. The social needs, the need to be around other people with activities and stimulations are part of the decision making process.

While for some, the decision to move into an assisted living is based on medical needs, for many the decision is based on loneliness and the opportunity to socialize with peers.

Personal needs and health issues

This element requires an honest assessment of yours or your loved one's health care status, prognosis and needs; and ability to safely manage personal hygiene, nutrition and medications. If someone is having problems, such as losing weight or continually taking medicines incorrectly, missing doses or not getting prescriptions filled, the home may no longer be safe for them.

Financial resources

It is important to realistically address what is affordable now and in the future. This means a detailed assessment of current and future finances and earnings. People progressively need more care; consider this in weighing costs. Even if the person and their family can afford it, 24/7 home care may make the adjustment to entering a facility in the future more difficult.

Family and community resources

Be realistic about how much family and community support you will have for in-home care. Basic personal support for things like meals, laundry and cleaning can take 4-5 hours a day during the week. Everyone has other obligations and commitments. Therefore many family and friends may not be able to help.

The Cost of Care for Aging

The Cost of Care for Aging is measured in financial cost and emotional cost. Care can be Expensive.

In-home care with professional caregivers and all of the costs of maintaining a home can be more expensive than assisted living, depending on personal and medical needs. Emotional cost of caring for an aging loved one can be a crushing burden on family members.

Paying for Assisted Living

Social Security • Savings • Home Equity

Long Term Care Insurance • Retirement Plans • Pensions

Annuities • Elderlife Financial Services • Other Real Estate

Family Assistance • Veteran's Aid and Attendance Benefits for Veteran or Spouse

Converting Life Insurance to Cash • Life Settlement for Sale of Insurance Policy