

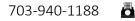
What's Important To/For you or your loved one	Items to Look For	Some Questions to Ask
Home Environment	 Private Access to Telephone or Computer Lock on Bedroom Door (individual should have a key) Locked space for personal items Mold Free Walls/ Bathrooms, etc Urine free toilet and surrounding areas The Home is free of foul odors Private Information is not posted in open areas for others to see 	 Can we decorate the room how we like? If I share a room, do I select who the roommate is? How will my items be protected from a roommate tampering with or taking them? Are visitors allowed at any time? How do you verify visitors and those who are taking the individual out of the home? Are there specific times or places that the phone and computer can be used? When can someone enter the bedroom? Who has a key? How often are the common areas cleaned? If more than one person shares a bathroom how do you ensure that there are no bodily fluids left around before the next person comes in? How often does the home receive pest control?
Nutrition	 The items in the refrigerator are organized and labeled. (No less than 3 days of food in refrigerator and cabinets) Posted Menu (Individualized choices and diet appropriate items) Fresh foods (Not a refrigerator/freezer full of processed foods) 	 How often are groceries purchased? How does the individual give input on meals/groceries? Are the menus rotational? If I have groceries that are just for me, where are they kept and how do you ensure that no one else eats them? How often will we go out to eat at a dine-in restaurant (not fast food)? How are calories measured for meals?

Guide for Individuals/Families looking for a New Home

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	 A Calendar that shows dining out options (not just fast food) Recipes for the menu 	
Health	 Gym/ Exercise Activities Locked area for medications 	 How often will I be able to go to the gym? If I play on a sports team, how will I get to practice? How do you encourage wellness and exercise activities? Where will my medications be kept? How are staff made aware of my allergies and/or any medical protocols that I have? What is the process for scheduling and completing medical appointments? Who is notified about the results of my medical appointments? Do you utilize a specific pharmacy for everyone? Who makes sure that the scripts match my medications every month and the MAR reflects any changes? If I have to be taken to urgent care or the emergency room but there is only one staff on shift, what happens? Are all staff CPR/First Aid/AED certified? What is the staffing ratio/schedule?
Community Activities/Inclusion	Calendar for Community Activities	 How are individuals' activities incorporated into the calendar? How many days a week do you plan on being out in the community? Are there opportunities for individual community activities or is everything as a group?





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	- If an emergency happens in the community does
	staff have emergency numbers for the
	individuals in their possession?
Petty Cash	- How is room and board calculated? What does
Invoices and Receipts	this include?
	- When is room and board due?
	 If I have spending money may I keep it in my own wallet?
	- If I receive pay from work, how is this tracked
	and recorded?
	- If I cannot handle my own funds, how are they
	kept and tracked?
	- How is my spending reported to my rep payee?
• TV in common area	- Is there a limit on when I can watch TV?
Games	- Can I have a TV in my room?
Books/Magazines	- If I don't have a personal TV, how will I be able to
	watch some of my favorite shows on the TV in
	the living room/common area?
	- What games/activities do you have here in the
	house for leisure?
Open Communication	- How often is the team updated on the
	individual's progress/lack of progress/concerns
	etc?
	- What type of incidents will we be notified about
	and when?
	- Do we receive any paperwork or documentation
	from your program on a regular basis?
	- If I work or attend a day program, how often do
	you communicate with them?
	 Invoices and Receipts TV in common area Games Books/Magazines







Easing the thoughts of placing your loved one with a New Provider

Every year numerous business owners complete an extensive process (on average the total process takes 1-1.5 years) to open a group home for individuals with DD. After obtaining a license they have to continue making a name for themselves and hopefully turn referrals to individuals who are admitted. Some new providers may have just opened their doors and others may have two or three years under their belt. Here are some questions to ask that can help ease your mind and make you feel more comfortable having your loved one move to a new provider.

Operation	Staffing	Experiences	
 How long have you been operating? Do you plan to expand or open other homes? What is your owner and program director's experience in this field? Is the company required to have reserve funds in case Medicaid postpones payments? 	 What trainings do all your staff receive? Are there additional trainings required for your staff above the mandates given by the state? How many administrators do you have? Do you have a PRN pool of staff? What's your staffing plan when a staff calls out or takes off? How is your staff turnover? What's your average staff tenure? 	 Have you handled any tough situations with any individuals you've supported? Have you helped individuals age in place? What is your personal definition of personcentered? What does it mean to have community inclusion? 	





Check out these articles regarding smaller/new companies

- <u>https://smallbusiness.chron.com/advantages-small-companies-over-large-companies-</u>
 <u>23667.html</u>
- <u>https://www.powerhomebiz.com/starting-a-business/entrepreneurship/8-advantages-of-a-small-business.htm</u>
- <u>https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/247412</u>

