



Senior Care Options with Care and Compassion

8 Mistakes that Families Make When Looking for Senior Care

From the CarePatrol Educational Series

When navigating the transition of a loved one to senior care, choosing the right care option can be complex. As you begin your search for the right solution, avoid the following mistakes.

1. TAKING COMMUNITY OPERATORS AT THEIR WORD.

WORD. It's a regrettable situation, but operators and marketers of senior care communities are sometimes under considerable pressure to keep their communities full. This can lead to misrepresenting the facts, like saying their communities are skilled at caring for dementia residents when the truth is that they have little experience.

2. MAKING A CHOICE BECAUSE IT SEEMED GOOD FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

Communities differ greatly in their skills and amenities. A place that is good for one person isn't necessarily a good fit for another. Your friend's mother can be doing well at her community, but she may have needs much different than your loved one.

3. CHOOSING BY APPEARANCE ALONE. It's shockingly common for expensive communities that look wonderful to be cited for violating regulations. When looking for a community, please remember the importance of focusing on a community's history of care and not just its looks.

4. LISTENING TO THE ADVICE OF EXPERTS IN OTHER FIELDS.

Your doctor or social worker are no doubt experts in what they do, but they don't have much time to research senior care communities. Often what they know is from word-of-mouth. If you get a recommendation from them, ask how often they've visited the community and whether they have actually researched the community's state survey record.



5. MAKING A DECISION BASED ON VISITING ONLY ONE COMMUNITY.

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6. MAKING A DECISION BASED ON PRESSURE FROM THE MARKETING PERSONNEL. Some marketing representatives have been trained in pushing you to choose their community. However, you should not base your decision on pressure from others. Think about what your loved one really needs and if the community can support it.

7. MAKING A DECISION BASED ON "GUILT." Having a loved one navigate the transition to senior care is difficult. Too many times, families choose care communities that are not necessarily a good decision for their loved one. For example, you may like that the community has a pool table or a swimming pool, but your loved one may not care to play pool or go swimming.

8. THINKING THAT ALL THE COMMUNITIES ARE

CREATED EQUAL. Not all communities can cater to the specific needs of your loved one. They may all hold the same license type, but their care offerings and focus are all different.



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