If you are considering a move to a personal care home or assisted living community for yourself or a loved one, be sure to visit the home and speak to the residents and staff before moving in. There are more than 600 licensed personal care homes in the Atlanta region. Quality of care, cost, services provided, and physical layout vary greatly. This checklist will help you evaluate a home or community you are considering and to know what questions to ask of the staff. By carefully reviewing the amenities, staffing and services offered, you are more likely to choose one that meets your or your loved one's needs.

1. **License:** Is the personal care home licensed by Healthcare Facility Regulation at the Georgia Department of Community Health?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

   Did you see the current permit and review the inspection reports?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

   While searching for an appropriate home, you may come across an unlicensed facility. Unlicensed homes are operating illegally without regulatory oversight and may not adhere to the state mandated requirements.

2. **Cost:** What are the charges for basic services? ________________________________________________________________

   What are the additional charges, if any? ________________________________________________________________

   Under what circumstances will money be refunded? ________________________________________________________________

3. **Admission Agreement:** Does the admission agreement state who is responsible for certain services (medical appointments, medication refills, etc.)?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

   Does it specify the fee for basic services?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

   Does it list additional charges for specific services?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

4. **House Rules:** Are there specific house rules?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

   What are they? ________________________________________________________________

   Ask the home provider to show you a copy of the Georgia Bill of Rights for Personal Care Home Residents. Do the house rules or admission agreement violate any of these rights?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

5. **Facility:** What is the size of the home? ________________________________________________________________

   What is its physical appearance? ________________________________________________________________

   Is it clean?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

   Does it have unpleasant odors?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

   Is the atmosphere pleasant?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

   Do the residents appear well-groomed and happy?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

   Can you move a walker or wheelchair with ease?
   - Home A: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
   - Home B: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
6. **Furnishings:** How is the home furnished?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Home A</th>
<th>Home B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
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</table>

- Does it have adequate space for residents’ belongings?  
- Are furnishings in good condition?  
- Can residents use their own furnishings if desired?

7. **Meals:** When are meal times?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>No</td>
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</table>

- Are there in-between-meal snacks?  
- Is a substitute offered for non-preferred food?  
- Are menus posted?  
- Can the home provide for special dietary needs?

8. **Activities:** What type of activities and entertainment are available inside and outside the home?  

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- Is the home involved with any outside agencies, religious centers, or school programs with children?

9. **Telephone:** Is there a telephone for residents' use?  

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- Are there any restrictions on its use?

10. **Visitation:** When can family or friends visit?  

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</table>

- Are there any restrictions?

11. **Transportation:** Is the home located within walking distance to shopping?  

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- Is the location served by public transportation?  
- If not, is there other transportation available?

12. **Staff:** What are the staff skills, education, and certifications?  

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

- Does the manager provide the services, or do they have additional staff?

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**For a listing of personal care homes and additional information on this type of alternative living, please call empowerline at (404) 463-3333.**

Please note that any and all information provided about services providers is intended for referral purposes only. Empowerline of the Atlanta Regional Commission does not license service providers nor guarantee the quality of service they will provide. Therefore, the staff does not endorse or recommend any provider versus another. The decision to use any service providers is the responsibility of the person needing the service or their family.

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