Checklist on Choosing an Assisted Living Facility

___ Identify an individual’s medical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs. What will happen when and if these needs change?

___ Consider a person’s life-style needs and preferences, e.g. location/size of home, semi-private or private room and bath, handicapped accessibility, etc.

___ Request a copy of the facility’s statement of deficiencies and Plan of Correction from the most recent survey.

___ Assess the overall cleanliness and maintenance of a home.

___ How often are a resident’s room cleaned and linens changed?

___ Request a copy of the Resident Agreement (Contract). Pay special attention to costs, services provided, and discharge policies. Consider having a lawyer review it.

___ Determine how long the client’s financial resources will last based on the facility’s monthly fee. Looking ahead, consider what will happen if the client is not able to pay the full amount.

___ Request a copy of the Uniform Disclosure Statement. Identify hidden costs not clearly indicated on the Resident Agreement.

___ Inquire about Management/Staffing credentials, Staff-to-Resident ratios.

___ Request copies of Staffing and Personal Care schedules.

___ What activities are offered and how often are they provided?

___ Talk to staff and residents to determine comfort level with the facility.

___ Check for a current license from The Office of Health Care Quality.

___ Visit a facility during the week and weekend to observe the services offered, and what it’s like to live there.

___ Will free transportation be provided to and from medical appointments?

___ Review approved diet menus. Will special dietary needs and requests be met?

___ What are the Fire and Emergency Disaster Procedures and Plans? How often are they practiced? Are Exit Alarms working?

___ Request a copy of and discuss the individualized Service Plan.

___ Inquire about any restrictions on Visiting Privileges.

___ Are residents required to use a particular pharmacy?

___ Are there restrictions on visiting Senior Centers and other Programs?