



# Decision Guide To Moving

Should I stay or should I move? That's a question many older people ask at some point. Making that decision can be difficult.

Housing consultants strongly recommend that you consider many factors before moving. First, ask yourself what it is that you really want. Do you have health problems that limit your choices? Do you need to live close to relatives and friends?

Moving from a home that you've lived in for years can be an emotional experience. It's best to weigh all the factors carefully before making your decision.

## What do you really want?

- Do you prefer living in a rural, suburban, or urban area?
- Do you want to stay in your current neighborhood?
- Is it safe?
- Is it important to live near public transportation, a grocery store, a drug store, and other frequent destinations?
- Do you need or want to live close to friends and relatives?
- Will you use all the space you have if you stay in your current home?
- Do you want to live in housing that's built exclusively for older people, or do you want to live in housing for people of all ages?

## What are your health and social concerns?

- Do you have health problems or physical limitations that make staying in your current residence difficult?
- How much maintenance can you handle?
- Does your home make you feel tied down?
- If you stay where you are, can you get more help from family members, neighbors, and friends?
- Can you do things to your home to make it more livable, such as adding grab bars, or remodeling your bathroom or kitchen?
- If you stay in your current home, will you be able to get out as often as you wish?
- Do your neighbors afford a support system to you?
- If you stay in your home but can't get out, will you be visited often enough by friends and relatives? If not, will you be able to obtain visits from senior companions or other volunteers?
- Are your friends or family worried about you staying in your current home? What do they suggest?
- What would you be forced to leave behind if you moved into senior housing?

## Finances: What can you afford?

- How much are you currently spending on housing, including mortgage payments, insurance, utilities, and property taxes? How much are you willing to spend in another location?
- If you move, do you want to rent or own your housing unit? What are the initial costs? Is there an entrance fee or deposit, and is it refundable?
- What are the ongoing costs? What are the monthly payments? What do those payments cover?

### **If you decide to move and plan to tour senior housing, here are some questions to consider on your visit:**

- Do you like the location or the neighborhood?
- Is there adequate parking? Is a garage unit available if you need one?
- Is the general atmosphere of the building warm and pleasant? Are staff members or the manager easy to talk to?

### **What amenities, such as a library, exercise room, crafts room, beauty/barber shop, chaplaincy or convenience store are important to you? Are these amenities offered in separate rooms?**

- Is there a variety of activities for you to participate in?
- Are there extra storage areas?
- Do the hallways have good lighting that is easy to use?
- Does the living unit you're considering provide you with adequate privacy?
- Do the units' design features fit your needs—for example, wide doors?
- Is there an emergency call system in the unit?
- Are there plenty of storage areas?
- Is there adequate counter and shelf space in the kitchen?

- How many, if any, meals are served? Are meal choices offered and special diets accommodated?
- Does the building offer special transportation for shopping or medical appointments?
- Are housekeeping and laundry services available? Are on-site home-health services available? What are the charges for extra services?
- If you have a pet, are pets permitted? If you like to garden, are there garden plots available?
- Is there a resident council through which you can have a means of voicing your views on the management of the building?
- Who is the sponsor/owner/management company? Are you familiar with the company? Does it have a solid reputation for providing quality housing?

\*Consumer Credit Guide 1996

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