

Public Advisory Notices for Families

Plain-language cautions to use alongside the facility questionnaire and family checklists.

Advisory 1: Licensed Nurses Are Not Guaranteed

A Florida assisted living facility is not generally required to have a licensed nurse on staff. A facility may employ or contract with nurses, and some specialty services require licensed personnel, but families should not assume that the terms assisted living or memory care mean that an RN or LPN is onsite around the clock.

Ask who is physically present on each shift, what license each person holds, whether licensed nursing is onsite or on call, who assesses a change in condition, and who communicates with the prescriber and pharmacy.

Advisory 2: Medication Assistance by Unlicensed Personnel

A resident may receive assistance with medications and specified other tasks from a trained but unlicensed employee, often called a med tech. Florida law requires a documented request and written informed consent before unlicensed assistance occurs. The informed consent must explain that an ALF is not required to have a licensed nurse on staff and whether the unlicensed assistance will or will not be overseen by a licensed nurse.

Unlicensed does not mean untrained. However, medication-assistance training does not make the employee a nurse and does not authorize independent clinical assessment, discretionary medication decisions, or changes to an order. Ask who resolves unclear orders, changing symptoms, missing medications, contraindications, and discrepancies between records.

Advisory 3: Memory Care Does Not Mean Continuous Nursing

Memory-care services address dementia-related supervision, activities, training, environment, and support. They do not automatically establish continuous RN or LPN coverage. Florida enacted a memory-care services license framework in 2026, with implementing rules due by June 1, 2027. Families must check the current rule and ask the facility to describe its actual licensed-nurse coverage and clinical escalation process.

Advisory 4: Before Accepting a Free Placement Recommendation

Some senior-living placement services are free to families because participating facilities pay the referral service when a person moves in. This does not automatically make the referral inappropriate. It does mean the family should understand who pays the service, which facilities participate, and what the service actually verified.

A Place for Mom states that participating communities pay it. Its published terms state that communities remain responsible for their licensing, staff, services, and pricing and that A Place for Mom does not control, recommend, or guarantee a community. The company states that its network review verifies valid licenses twice each year. License verification is not an onsite safety inspection, clinical assessment, medication-process audit, diet-process audit, or independent guarantee of care quality.

Ask whether the suggested list includes every reasonable local option or primarily participating facilities. A facility absence from a referral list does not necessarily mean it is unsuitable; it may not participate in that service network.

Advisory 5: Ratings and Reviews Are Not Safety Findings

Consumer ratings may reflect friendliness, appearance, activities, communication, dining satisfaction, or the reviewer overall experience. They do not replace official inspection reports and do not prove that medication, diet, fall, wound,

staffing, or condition-change processes are reliable. Review platforms may use proprietary formulas driven substantially by recent consumer reviews.

Advisory 6: A Valid License Is the Beginning of Research

A valid license means the facility is authorized to operate under the applicable category. It does not mean the facility has no deficiencies, that every correction remains effective, or that the facility is suitable for a particular resident. Review the current license, specialty authority, inspection history, resident needs, and unanswered operational questions together.

Advisory 7: A Tour Is a Sample

A tour shows conditions during a limited period, often with advance notice and sales staff present. It may not represent nights, weekends, shift changes, ordinary meal delivery, medication-pass interruptions, or the response to an unexpected condition change. Treat the tour as one source of evidence.

Scope and privacy

The tools do not replace emergency care, treating-clinician judgment, or legal advice. Do not place resident-identifying information into an unsecured copy or public submission.