



Information Sheet

No. 13 Accommodation for the Elderly

"Accommodation for the Elderly" describes different forms and types of housing. The most important include:

- Senior citizens' home
- Home care or assisted living
- Community living
- Out-patient assisted living communities
- Nursing home

These types of living accommodation differ in the extent to which care is provided and the degree of independent living.

Senior citizens' home

The senior citizens' home is a home with apartments designated exclusively for the elderly with their location, facilities and structure offering conditions more or less suitable for elderly living. The apartments are furnished quite differently in individual homes. In general, no additional service is available. However, in some senior citizens' homes social support and consultation by geriatric nurses is provided.

Despite their very different features, many senior citizens' homes have communal areas and elevators. Wheelchair access is possible only in some apartments. The condition for moving into a senior citizens' home is mainly a subsidized rent certificate. In addition, the future tenants should be able to run the household independently.

Service Living (see Information Sheet No. 14)

The term "service living" is not a clearly defined and protected term, and is also referred to as "living plus" or "assisted living." The facilities and the range of services offered differ between service homes. Common to all of these concepts is that this form of living involves independent living in a separate, self-contained apartment with additional services offered.

The services can vary, ranging from emergency call systems, janitorial services, and cultural offers to contact persons or local nursing care support.

The services are either services paid for by all residents (basic services) or individual optional services (elective services) available at a fee; the charges for rent, basic services and elective services determine the actual cost. "Senior residences" are a special form of service living with beautifully furnished condominiums in a select price category.

Community Living

The term "communal living" comprises housing that aims to promote and develop living in a community. These facilities may differ both in size and in residential structure. There are housing communities, co-operatives, generational-mixed residential projects, and residential communities. In general, this form of housing is a project self-initiated by residents.

Out-patient assisted living communities (see Information Sheet No. 29 and 30)

Out-patient assisted living communities or residential care communities provide a special form of communal living for people with physical, psychological or mental impairments. These residential communities are considered alternatives to nursing homes. Individuals with a high need for care and support live here, in particular older people with dementia whose care cannot be provided for in the home environment.

Nursing homes (see Information Sheet No. 11 and 12)

Nursing homes are residential facilities for people who can no longer be cared for in their own home or in other facilities. The residents receive comprehensive care in a nursing home and are receive care for all day. The homes have single or shared rooms. Some of the homes have a particular focus, such as for the care of people suffering from dementia or for coma patients. The condition for being admitted to a nursing home is that need for care and need for in-patient housing is recognized by the medical services of the Health Insurance.

Other forms of assisted living

Assisted individual living, therapeutic residential communities, transitional residences and crisis apartments are designed for appropriate target groups; the age is not the decisive factor. The target groups are, for example, the mentally ill, drug addicts, homeless people and the disabled. Admission to these facilities is not readily possible. A public health doctor (psychiatrist) must issue an expert evaluation for this target group of residents.

The staff at the nursing support centre is happy to advise you.

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The responsible body for the nursing support centre are the insurance companies of Berlin and the state Berlin.