



The Senior Living 'Break Down'

'The Process'

Identifying Your Needs and Finding the Right Fit

A Resource By: Villagio 'At Your Service'

THE PROCESS-IDENTIFYING YOUR NEEDS AND FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

Once you have a better understanding of the different levels of care as shown on the scale of senior living (refer to 'The Scale of Senior Living Options'), you will likely be wondering what's next? With all the options out there, how do you choose from the entire universe of communities to know which one is for you? How do you navigate from this "Universe" of healthcare to being able to make an empowered decision? First, let's go through some basic steps that will help you narrow down your search. 'At Your Service' designed the "Funnel of Senior living" to help filter the options available. The Funnel is designed to break down the process even further to help you find the right community for you or your loved one.

THE PROCESS FUNNEL



WHERE?

First it is important to decide WHERE you want to start looking. It's a big world out there! You need to narrow down where you want to start looking. You should take the time to discuss and consider what is important to you or your loved one. This is a time to have an honest conversation about who is being served? Consider who will be visiting the most. Being close to family may sometimes mean moving cities, or even states. Some prefer to remain as close to their current home as they can to maintain their relationships with those that are important to them. Will there be any geographic implications? A good way to help you decide is to start by listing the 5 most important people in your life, followed by what role they play, and the city they live in. **Example**

	Name	Relationship	State	City	City quadrant
1	Ashley	Sister	California	Chico	N/A
2	Candice	Sister	Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	NW
3	Kizlee	Daughter	Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	SE
4	Nathan	Son	Oklahoma	Edmond	E
5	Blake	Pastor	Oklahoma	Edmond	E

You may notice that there is some overlap between cities. Therefore, it makes sense to include the quadrant of the city to help fine tune the search. It's possible that there may not be a reasonable option within the desired quadrant of the City. Using this tool will help you find alternatives if that is the case.

Once you have Chosen where you want to begin looking, take note on the different communities that are in that area. Start by using your favorite search engine online like google, then you are ready to move on the next step of our funnel.

ACUITY SCALE

When considering the next step, it is important to pay attention to the acuity scale that we covered earlier. You will want to discuss this scale with your doctor, family, and anyone else that you want to take in to consideration when deciding which level of care is right for you or your loved one. Your Doctor will no doubt have the most influential wisdom from a medical stand point and will be your first filter in deciding which type of community will be best. The second filter is that of the person who will be living at the community. Whether it is you, or your loved one, it is important that their voice is heard. And lastly, you will want to listen to the voices of the ones closest to you. The thoughts and outside views from a family member, who genuinely care and understands who you are, can often be that voice, or set of second eyes that are necessary in helping you make a decision. Once you know which level of care is right for you, you will be able to narrow your search down to those specific types of communities. Keep in mind that each community has their own set of standards and requirements that must be met prior to admission^(d).

WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

Now that you have it narrowed down to the specific type of community you will need, based off the acuity scale, you should make a list of all the things that are important to you about a community. Think a moment about yourself, or your loved one. who are they? What's their story? Make a list of hobbies that you or that person enjoy, or once enjoyed. Is there a passion for something specific like cooking or reading? Consider the type of amenities^(d) that you will be looking for. Consider making a list, like the one below.

Hobbies	Passions	Needs
Crochet	Grandkids	Medication Assistance
Golf	Movies	Bars in Showers
Bowling	Cooking	Call Light System
Bridge (Cards)	Classic Cars	24 Hour Staff
		WiFi
		Community
		Good Socialization

Use this to assist you as you call communities and start asking questions. Decide what is important and make sure that the community offers first, what you need, then ask them how they can accommodate, or adapt programs and care to fit the hobbies or passions of you and your loved one. You may also want to make use of our Tour Checklist, which will be coming out soon, to ensure that you are asking all of the right questions, and even some that you may have forgotten to take into consideration.

EMPOWERED DECISION

Lastly, we would suggest making a list of your top three communities. Schedule tours with each one, so that you can see them for yourself and get more information in order to make sure that you are making an empowered decision.

It is important to keep in mind that this tool is not a flawless tool, yet the process is intended to be a guide for individuals and their families to be helpful in talking through things as questions may arise