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## BASIC INFORMATION

Is the facility Medicare certified?

Yes  No

Is the facility Medicaid certified?

Yes  No

Does the home have the level of care needed (e.g., skilled, custodial)?

Yes  No

Is there a waiting period for admission?

Yes  No

Does the home have special services if needed (e.g., Alzheimer's or Hospice Unit)?

Yes  No

Is the home located close enough for family and friends to visit with ease?

Yes  No

Are care-plan meetings scheduled conveniently for residents and family members to attend?

Yes  No

Is the administration in support of an independent family council being formed if one has not already been established?

Yes  No



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### When You Visit

*Take a tour of a nursing home by appointment. If the visit goes well, return unannounced another day during meal times or early in the morning to observe daily operating routines and the atmosphere during shift changes.*

Choosing a nursing home for yourself or your loved one is an important decision. But it does not have to be a daunting one.

Within this brochure are questions to consider as you research nursing homes. Bring a copy of this checklist to each facility you visit and take plenty of notes. Later, use your notes to compare the facilities.

Before you go, jot down any personal questions that you would like addressed during your visit.

My questions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contacts with whom I met: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Elder Law Associates PA** (ELA) is a boutique elder law firm that practices exclusively in elder law, wills and trusts, Medicaid planning and applications, disability planning, special needs trusts, guardianship, asset preservation and elder law litigation. ELA assists clients in planning for the possibility of disability, incapacity, home health care and/or nursing home placement. The firm enables its clients to avoid impoverishment caused by the escalating cost of long term care, to maintain their right to make health care decisions and to avoid unnecessary medical treatment.



**Ellen S. Morris, Esq.** and **Howard S. Krooks, Esq., CELA**, ELA's partners, are experienced and accomplished in handling a diverse range of issues affecting seniors, persons with disabilities and their families. The partners' combined legal experience enables the firm to provide the highest degree of service and to interpret and translate complex legal issues for the benefit of our clients. ELA has received an AV® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating afforded attorneys, from Martindale-Hubbell.

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■ Nursing  
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## ELDER LAW ASSOCIATES PA

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## NURSING HOME INFORMATION

Is the home and the current administrator licensed?

Yes  No

Does the home conduct extensive background checks on all prospective staff?

Yes  No

Does the home train its staff in abuse prevention?

Yes  No

Do all staff wear name tags?

Yes  No

Is there a full-time registered nurse in the home at all times other than the administrator or director of nursing?

Yes  No

Is there a licensed doctor and a social worker on staff and are they there daily or reachable at all times?

Yes  No

Does the guide on your tour know the residents by name and do the residents recognize the tour guide?

Yes  No

Has the nursing home management team been together for at least one year?

Yes  No

Does the staff knock on the door before entering a resident's room and refer to the resident by name?

Yes  No

## QUALITY OF LIFE

Can residents make choices about their daily routine such as when to go to bed or get up, when to bathe or when to eat?

Yes  No

Is the home free from overwhelming unpleasant odors?

Yes  No

If smoking is allowed, is it restricted to certain areas of the nursing home?

Yes  No

Does the home meet your cultural, religious or language needs?

Yes  No

Does the home have good lighting?

Yes  No

Do the residents' rooms have personal articles and furniture?

Yes  No

Are noise levels in the dining room and other common areas at a comfortable level?

Yes  No

Do the residents have a choice of food items at each meal?

Yes  No

Are nutritious snacks available upon request?

Yes  No

Does staff help residents eat and drink at mealtimes?

Yes  No



Are there a variety of activities available that the prospective resident enjoys?

Yes  No

Are residents who are unable to leave their room included in activities?

Yes  No

Does the home have active outside volunteer groups?

Yes  No

Are there outdoor meeting areas for the residents' use?

Yes  No

Are the public areas pleasant and available for family gatherings?

Yes  No

Do residents have access to personal televisions and telephones?

Yes  No

Do residents have personal storage space such as a closet or drawers in their rooms?

Yes  No

Are there policies and procedures in place to protect residents' possessions?

Yes  No

## QUALITY OF CARE

May residents continue to see their personal physician?

Yes  No

Are the residents clean, appropriately dressed and well groomed?

Yes  No

Do staff respond quickly to requests for help?

Yes  No

Are there handrails in the hallways and grab bars in the bathrooms?

Yes  No

Does the home have an emergency evacuation plan and hold regular fire drills?

Yes  No

Are smoke detectors and sprinklers in the rooms and public areas?

Yes  No

Do residents get preventive care such as annual flu shots?

Yes  No

Is there a chain of command for complaints and if so will you be notified how to reach each person at each level?

Yes  No

Are staff in uniforms that differentiate between housekeeping staff, aides, licensed practical nurses and registered nurses?

Yes  No