

Levels of Care of Services Available

(Court Investigators check appropriateness for least restrictive environment)

Independent Living

At home with little or no aid.

Home Care

Includes companies that provide both licensed health care services in the home; and companies that provide nonmedical assistance with such tasks as bathing, dressing, meal preparation, transportation, and companion care. Medi-Cal provides financial assistance in some cases.

Retirement Communities

Totally independent living with amenities such as meals, transportation, and activities usually included in a monthly fee.

Continuing Care Retirement Communities

Full-service community housing offering retirement, assisted living, and nursing services, with a promise of lifetime care.

There is an entry fee, which includes a condominium or townhouse, and a monthly fee, which is determined by the size of the unit and number of persons living in the unit. Included in the fees is a health insurance policy. There are usually conditions attached to the sale or transfer of a unit, and the monthly fees increase over time.

A resident must pass a stringent physical examination, must be healthy and independent, and must exceed an age limit—usually 55.

As the resident progresses, the CCRC will provide assisted care and nursing care as required. The facility does not always provide assisted care or nursing care at the same location as the Retirement Community.

Assisted Living Facility

Multi-unit facilities that provide assistance with medications and daily activities, such as bathing and dressing. Also provide meals, activities, and transportation.

Residential Care Facility for the Elderly

Usually single family homes licensed to provide assistance with medications, bathing, and dressing; they also provide meals, activities, and transportation. Does not require medical staff or a staff member to be awake at night.

Alzheimer's Care Facilities

Facilities offering specialized programs for residents suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of memory loss. These programs can be offered by Residential Care, Assisted Living, or Nursing facilities. These facilities usually provide secure perimeters. A conservatee may not be placed in a secured facility unless the court has given specific authorization for such placement.

Skilled Nursing Facilities

Facilities licensed to provide skilled nursing services under the supervision of licensed nurses. Facilities vary in types of services provided and coverage of Medicare and/or Medi-Cal. You can review the quality of care provided at the facilities, as well as any complaints or other issues that have been raised with the state by checking the facilities at:

<http://hfcis.cdph.ca.gov/default.aspx>

and

<http://www.medicare.gov/NursingHomeCompare/search.aspx?bhcp=1>

Sub-acute

Facilities licensed to provide nursing services, but specializing in higher levels of care and not custodial care.

Hospice

Hospice care may be provided in the home or a senior care facility. Services can include pain management and a variety of emotional, spiritual, and physical support issues. Medicare and Medi-Cal provide financial assistance in some cases.

Care Management

Offer advisory services addressing a wide range of senior issues, such as selecting a senior residence and choosing in-home care providers and various financial options. Typically, care managers evaluate a senior's situation with regard to health needs, housing choices, and financial needs, and they will then provide a recommended care plan.