

# ASSISTED LIVING: COSTS AND CONTRACTS

*A list of financial questions to ask when you and your loved ones visit an assisted living facility.*

## Costs & Contracts

The contract is a legal document, obligating you to potentially pay very large sums of money for care. CCAL encourages you to consult with an elder law attorney before signing the document.

**What is the baseline fee?**

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**What services are provided for that fee?**

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**What initial payments are required? What portion is refundable?**

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**If the patient is away from the facility for an extended period of time, (in the hospital or temporarily in a nursing home) what fees continue to apply?**

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**When, how often, and why can the fees be changed?**

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**When fees are changed, who is informed? How much advanced warning is provided?**

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**What happens if funds run out? Is there any financial assistance?**

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**Is renters insurance required?**

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**What happens if there is a spill or accident that destroys property—the resident's or the facility's? Who is responsible for cleaning/repairing, payment or replacement?**

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**Examine the contract. Is the print large enough for you to read? If not ask for a copy that is. Does the contract clearly describe:**

**Monthly fees and extra charges, including charges to hold a bed during an absence?**

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**A refund policy in cases of transfers, discharges, changes in ownership, or closure of the facility?**

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**Responsibilities of the resident and of the facility?**

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**Behavioral conditions or other circumstances that may result in termination of services and an explanation of discharge policies?**

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**What are the rights of residents?**

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**Are there grievance procedure alternatives if you are not satisfied with the grievance procedure?**

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**Do any of the amenities (exercise facility, physical therapy, laundry, transportation, etc.) cost extra?**

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**Notes**

## Notes