

Is a Shared Residence the Best Option?

While sharing a residence with a loved one can make caregiving easier, and may create close bonds between the caregiver and the care recipient, as well as other family members, there are some questions to consider before you make the move.

Can your home be modified to accommodate the care recipient's needs and safety? Are these modifications affordable?

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Can your home be arranged to provide some privacy for both parties?

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Is the atmosphere conducive to caregiving (e.g., a busy household with young children may be disruptive)?

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If the caregiver is working outside the home, will the care recipient be home alone? Can hired aides or adult day programs provide care and companionship while you are gone?

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What type of care is required? Can the care recipient function somewhat independently, manage his or her personal care, and pitch in around the house? If round-the-clock care is required, can you hire help? Can other family members share the cost and responsibilities?

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How do other family members (i.e., spouse and siblings) feel about the new arrangement and the changes it will bring?

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How well do you get along with the care recipient? Will personalities mesh or clash? Are you comfortable discussing problems openly?

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