



Should I Register My Residence?

Under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, the definition of an assisted living residence is a premises or part of a premises, other than a community care facility, in which housing, hospitality services and assisted living services are provided by or through an operator to 3 or more adults who:

- Are not related by blood or marriage to the operator of the premises, and
- Do not require, on a regular basis, unscheduled professional health services.

Should I Register My Residence?

You are required to register your residence if you:

- Offer all three components of assisted living:
 - › Housing;
 - › Hospitality services, and
 - › Assisted living services.
- Provide support and services to 3 or more adults who are not related by blood or marriage to the operator of the premises; and
- Provide these services directly as an operator or through contract.

This applies to both publicly subsidized and private-pay residences.



What are the support services?

Housing is:

Providing accommodation to residents who meet the criteria of assisted living.

Hospitality services include:

- Planning and providing meals and snacks;
- Housekeeping services;
- Laundry services;
- Planning and providing social and recreational opportunities; and
- 24-hour personal emergency response system.

Assisted living services may include:

- Support with activities of daily living;
- Assistance with managing and/or administering medication;
- Therapeutic diet support;
- Safekeeping of money and other personal property;
- Behaviour management; and
- Psychosocial (or programming) supports.

What are the key differences between the various housing options for people who cannot live on their own or need some assistance every day?

Family care homes, assisted living residences and licensed residential care facilities provide housing and services to adults but there are some important differences between them.

The following chart explains some of the key differences between each option.

Family Care Homes

Do not need to be registered or licenced.

Residential Tenancy Standards and B.C. consumer protections apply.

Family care home services are provided out of someone's home to 1 or 2 adults with specialized care needs that can better be met in a home setting than in a residential care facility.

Services include:

- A home like atmosphere;
- Meals, laundry and housekeeping;
- Supervision; and
- Assistance with the activities of daily living.

Assisted Living Residences

Need to be "Registered"

Assisted living residences are intended for adults who are semi-independent but require day-to-day assistance in a few areas.

Criteria to be a resident:

- Can live in the residence safely, given their needs and capabilities;
- Is able to make decisions on their own behalf, or lives with a spouse who can do so on their behalf;

- Is able to take steps to protect themselves or follow directions in an emergency;
- Does not have behaviours that put the health and safety of others at risk;
- Does not require unscheduled professional health services on a regular basis; and
- Does not require licensed care (*i.e.* does not need 24-hour professional supervision and care in a protective, supportive environment for people who have complex care needs).

Services:

- Residences provide housing, hospitality and assisted living services to 3 or more adults who are not related by blood or marriage to the operator of the premises.

Classes of Assisted Living residences:

- **Seniors and persons with disabilities:** for adults receiving assisted living services due primarily to chronic or progressive conditions linked to the aging process or a disability.
- **Mental health:** for adults receiving assisted living services due to mental disorder.
- **Supportive recovery:** for adults receiving assisted living services due primarily to substance use.

Operators in all three classes must fulfil their responsibilities, as set out in the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* and the Assisted Living Regulation.

Residential Care Facilities

Need to be “Licensed”

Licensed residential care facilities are intended for more vulnerable adults who may need 24-hour care and supervision. Persons in residential care are dependent on continuous professional care.

A residential care facility:

- May be specialized, such as secure homes for people with dementia; or

- May provide short stay services such as respite, mental health or substance use treatment, convalescent care and end-of-life care (hospice).

Types of residential care facilities:

- Acquired Injury;
- Community Living;
- Hospice Care;
- Long Term Care;
- Mental Health; or
- Substance Use.

How do I register my residence once I have determined that I meet the criteria of assisted living residence?

Before you open or accept residents, you must apply for registration with the Assisted Living Registry. If approved, you will receive a registration certificate for each class of assisted living in your residence.

A registration package is available online.

- See Assisted Living in BC, www.gov.bc.ca/AssistedLivingBC / Opening or Operating an Assisted Living Residence / Tools and Resources.

You can also contact and request an application from the:

Assisted Living Registry

Ministry of Health

PO Box 9601 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9P1

Phone: Victoria: 778.974.4887

Toll-Free: 1.866.714.3378

Email: info@alregistrar.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/AssistedLivingBC / Assisted Living Registry

Other resources you should review are:

- ***The Community Care and Assisted Living Act***
- **The Assisted Living Regulation**
 - › See BC Laws, <http://www.bclaws.ca/>
- **Assisted Living in B.C., A Handbook for Operators**
- **A range of other fact sheets, brochures and forms for operators of assisted living residences**
 - › See Assisted Living in BC, www.gov.bc.ca/AssistedLivingBC / Opening or Operating an Assisted Living Residence / Tools and Resources.