



Should I Register My Residence?

The *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (the *Act*) defines an assisted living residence as 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.

You must register your residence if you:

- Provide 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 to you; and
- Provide these services directly as an operator or through a contract.

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



What are the support services?

Housing is:

Accommodation for residents. Residences vary in size from small buildings that house 5 or 6 people to large, multi-story buildings.

Hospitality services include all of the following:

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

How these services are delivered will look different in residences for seniors and persons with disabilities compared to supportive recovery residences, or mental health residences.. For example, while operators of seniors residences provide housekeeping and laundry services, operators of supportive recovery residences will most often provide the equipment for residents to do their own laundry and clean the residence. Similarly, the delivery of a 24-hour personal emergency response system will be different for different classes (or types) of assisted living residences.

Assisted living services will vary depending on the class of residence and may include one or more of the following:

- Help with activities of daily living;
- Help with managing, safekeeping, distributing and/or administering medication;
- Help with safekeeping of money and other personal property;
- Help with managing therapeutic diets;
- Help with behaviour management; and
- Psychosocial supports (programming).

What are the key differences between assisted living residences and residential care facilities?

Both assisted living residences and licensed residential care facilities provide housing and services to adults but there are some important differences between them. The following charts explain the key differences.

Assisted Living Residences

Need to be “registered” with the Assisted Living Registry.

Assisted living residences are for adults who are semi-independent but require day-to-day assistance or support.

To be a resident, a person:

- 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 from the operator 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 with chronic or progressive conditions linked to the aging process or a disability.
- **Mental health:** for adults with mental health disorders.
- **Supportive recovery:** for adults seeking support for recovery from problematic drug or alcohol use.

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

Residential Care Facilities

Need to be “licensed” through the health authority medical health officer.

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

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
- Long term care
- Community living
- Mental health care or treatment
- Hospice care
- Substance use treatment

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

Before you start to operate or accept 3 or more 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 you provide in your residence.

An application for 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 9604 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9P1

Phone: Victoria: 778-974-4887

Toll-Free: 1-866-714-3378

Email: Hlth.assistedlivingregistry@gov.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/>**
 - › See Assisted Living in BC, www.gov.bc.ca/AssistedLivingBC / Opening or Operating an Assisted Living Residence / Tools and Resources which includes:
 - **Assisted Living in B.C., A Handbook for Operators**
 - **A range of other fact sheets, brochures and forms for operators of assisted living residences**