

# Admission to Pyareo Home



## Philosophy and Lifestyle Goals of *Pyareo Home*

1. *Pyareo Home* is an assisted living facility created to provide a haven for members of our community who, because of age or disability, need assistance in managing their day-to-day living.

At *Pyareo Home* we wish to create a place where assisted living does not signify an end to life, but another beginning – filled with hope, caring and new opportunities.

2. Most of the founding members of *Pyareo Home* are committed to a spiritual life and a specific meditation practice, and many aspects of our lifestyle derives from this commitment. The essential elements of this lifestyle are:
  - vegetarian diet, avoidance of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs
  - sincere striving for non-violence, love and tolerance for all, truthfulness, contentment, etc.
  - emphasis on service and on spiritual rather than material aspects of life
3. The above principles are fundamental to the identity of *Pyareo Home* and we cannot compromise on them, as the spiritual lifestyle which they support is the very purpose for which the *Home* has been created.

## The Application Review Process

1. The criteria for admission and the process outlined below attempt to cover the range of issues that may come up.

The act of stepping from independent living into assisted living is an emotionally distressing, logistically difficult and legally complex matter. The purpose of this information is to provide as much clarity to the process as possible.

2. The criteria used for reviewing and evaluating applications by prospective residents will be the same, regardless of the applicant's gender, race, religion or national origin.

Rather than using the above "labels", we are primarily looking for certain attitudes in applicants and their immediate family: sincere interest in being part of the *Home*, a tolerant temperament, willingness to make their own health-care decisions, realistic attitude and honesty regarding financial issues, and such.

3. To implement our admissions policy fairly, an Admissions Review Committee, made up of the administrator, the nurse and at least one member of the Board of Directors, will be formed to review applications for residence at the *Home*. Roles of committee will be:
  - to develop a coherent admissions policy and review process, based on the fundamental

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- goals outlined above
  - to set up an equitable method of determining all resident fees; and if necessary, to obtain the services of an impartial third party for the review of financial status of applicants
  - to maintain a balance between prospective resident's needs, the needs of existing residents, and the ability of the community to support the prospective resident in terms of time and funds
  - to decide which applicants will be accepted
4. As long as our finances allow, we will not to refuse residency to an otherwise qualified potential resident because of his/her inability to pay the full monthly fees. We endeavor to raise funds to subsidize those whose need it.

### Criteria for Admission

#### *Basic health qualifications for becoming a resident*

1. New Hampshire State law requires that prospective residents obtain a comprehensive health examination within 30 days prior to admission to the *Home*. This examination needs to record health issues, and also assess the level of assistance which he/she needs to receive if admitted into the *Home*.  
  
State health laws, as well as building codes, require that we allow residency only to persons who can meet the following minimum health and mobility criteria:
  - A resident must, to a large extent, be able to move about alone or with assistive devices without staff assistance.
  - A resident must not require 24-hour skilled nursing care on an on-going basis.
2. To the extent that space and *Home* finances permit, we also plan to open the *Home* to temporary residents, for stays of respite.

#### *Interest and compatibility*

1. While it is anticipated that many prospective residents will be following the spiritual path outlined above, since the environment will naturally support their life commitments, the *Home* will be open to relatives, friends and other members of the community who:
  - have a clear understanding of the lifestyle the Home endeavors to support
  - have thought deeply about whether or not they can live such a lifestyle, and are committed to doing so (practice of meditation is not required)
  - do not expect to be given exemption to the elements of vegetarian diet, or the prohibition of smoking tobacco, drinking alcohol or using recreational drugs.
2. To maintain the right atmosphere within the *Home*, residents need to be tolerant of each other. Prospective residents will need to demonstrate:
  - a tolerant and positive attitude towards existing residents

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- show a commitment to become a member of the Home community
  - realistic expectations and understanding of what services will be provided
3. We ask that prospective residents visit the *Home* prior to applying for residency, to personally assess the advantages and disadvantages of the *Home*. We would encourage prospective residents to talk with existing residents, staff and volunteers. This visit will also provide the opportunity for the more formal admissions discussions with the administrator and/or the admissions committee.

### *Availability of space and services*

1. If there are insufficient rooms for qualified applicants, preference will be given to persons who are most compatible and have fewer other options where they can live.
2. We will do our best to accommodate a person's disability by adapting the living spaces, or by helping to obtain the appropriate tools and technology. We may not always succeed, and there may be persons with specific, or extreme, disabilities whom we cannot accommodate at the *Home*, because we cannot provide the appropriate level of care.

Further, if an existing resident's disability progresses to a level that we can no longer accommodate at the *Home*, the resident may need to relocate to a more specialized facility, or to a nursing home.

### *Fair dealing regarding financial issues*

1. Residents will pay monthly fees for basic services, as described in the agreement package. Additional services will be provided as feasible, and will be charged on top of the basic fees.
2. Monthly fees will be based on the total yearly operating expenses of the *Home*, which will vary with the total number of residents, number of paid staff, building operating expenses, etc. We expect that our monthly fees will be lower than market rates for similar services, and thus our cash flows may be tighter. The Home administration assesses cash flows twice a year, and if necessary, adjusts monthly fees accordingly.
3. After due consideration, we have decided not to require entrance fees of residents coming to the *Home*, as it is difficult to apply such fees fairly. Also, an entrance fee would put additional emotional burden on prospective residents at an already difficult junction in their lives.

However, the elimination of entrance fees reduces the availability of reserve funds and also results in higher monthly fees.

A prospective resident may still pay an entrance fee in conjunction with reduced monthly payments, but this is an option.

4. An assisted living environment is expensive to maintain. We ask that all prospective residents and their families be fair-minded, sincere and realistic about their financial

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commitments.

- Prospective residents will be asked to provide sufficient background financial information to enable the Home to establish their ability to meet their financial commitments.
- If candidates and their immediate families cannot provide the monthly fees required of them, they must be prepared for an objective and thorough review of their financial status.
- The financial commitment made by prospective residents and their immediate family is long-term, and we respectfully ask them not to make arbitrary reductions after admission to the Home, as this creates financial difficulties for the Home and the supporting community, and undermines the trust which forms the foundation of the relationship.

We pledge to maintain the confidentiality of all financial information we receive, and we will do our best to help in case of hardship.

5. While this is not a requirement for admission, we strongly recommend that persons considering entering *Pyareo Home* (or any other assisted living facility) at some future time, purchase Long Term Care insurance well in advance of such move.

### *Support and commitment by immediate family*

1. Another helpful requirement for acceptance into the *Home* is a positive, realistic and supportive attitude by the immediate family of a prospective resident.

If a prospective resident has close ties with his/her immediate family, the latter must be committed to being a partner in this venture. More specifically:

- they must accept and support the essential goals of the Home, as outlined above
- they must agree in principle to supporting the resident financially
- they need to be involved with decision-making regarding the resident's welfare, with regular visits, and general caring attitude

To avoid future misunderstandings, immediate family members who feel responsible for a prospective resident's decisions, will be requested to review the resident's agreement package and will be encouraged to ask questions.

2. If relatives of a prospective resident will be given health-care power of attorney or other legal powers on behalf of the resident, they will also be required to sign a separate form indicating their understanding and acceptance of the agreement by the resident.

### Termination of residency

1. We will do our utmost to accommodate and support residents with personal difficulties and illness, as these events are natural parts of life, especially as we get older. We also recognize that personal incompatibilities and disruptive behavior are bound to occur at the *Home*, just as they occur elsewhere, and that all of us need to work through such situations with love, skill and respect.

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In extreme situations, we will conduct an unbiased formal review of the situation. Termination of residency will be chosen only after all other options have been exhausted.

2. In summary, *Pyareo Home* may ask a resident to leave for one of the following three reasons (as noted above):
  - Our inability to provide services for the level of a resident's disability
  - Lack of candor and co-operation regarding financial matters
  - Repeated violent or other improper behavior by a resident, resulting in trauma to other residents or staff
  - Irreconcilable difference with a resident's guardian or person holding an activated Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, on the type of care the resident should receive
3. Residents may decide to move out of the *Home* at any time and for any reason, by giving sufficient notice; unless this decision is based on specific medical reasons, in which case only minimal notice is required. There may be some predetermined, minimal financial consequences to this decision.