



Homeowner Responsibilities

When you have met someone you are considering sharing your home with, we **strongly recommend** that you follow the steps below in order to give yourself -- and your prospective housemate -- the best opportunity for a successful homesharing relationship.

1. Call the tenant's **references**. You may obtain these from Homesharing staff or directly from the tenant. Suggested questions to ask the references are on the reverse side of this sheet.
2. We **strongly suggest** that after checking the references you have a **trial visit**. Choose a specific amount of time that you will live together to see if your arrangement is mutually agreeable. We have found that this is the *best* way to ensure a successful match.
3. Once you have decided to live together, fill out an **agreement form** before the person moves in to make sure that both of your expectations are clearly understood. *It is far better to clarify questions on the form beforehand than to try to straighten out misunderstandings later on.*

Call us at 448-5725 if you have any questions.

Please do not make a final decision about having someone move in to your home until you have had time to think it over.

*If you have **any** misgivings about a person, it is always better to frankly discuss possible problem areas than to put up with them in order to be nice. The effort you put in now will help to ensure the mutual long-term success of your match.*

It is very important to call us regularly -- once or twice a month -- to let us know that you are still looking for a housemate. This will ensure that your file remains active. Please call if your needs or preferences change so that we can keep the information in your file current. It is also important to call us after you have spoken with a potential housemate to let us know if you are considering sharing with that person. *If we don't hear from you for an extended period of time, we will assume you are no longer interested in sharing your home.*

Checking References

When you call a potential tenant's references, introduce yourself to the person and explain that you are part of the Homesharing for Seniors program. Tell them you would like to ask a few questions to get a better sense of the person who is interested in sharing your home.

Suggested questions to ask:

1. How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity (co-worker, classmate, friend)?
2. How well does this person get along with others, including seniors?
3. What are your impressions of her/him as an employee or as a friend?
4. Does s/he show initiative; are they reliable and trustworthy?
5. What are the applicant's strong points?
6. Does the person have any habits or characteristics that make you uncomfortable?
7. Do you know of any problems the applicant may have (or have had) with drugs or alcohol?
8. Do you have any reservations about this person living with a senior adult?
9. Would you want to live/work with this person?



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