



**Special
Olympics**
Texas

Questions for Group Home Providers

If you've ever thought about placing your child or loved-one who is intellectually or developmentally challenged into a group home, then you've surely asked yourself a variety of questions.

- Am I doing the right thing?
- Will my child be OK?
- How do I know when I've found "THE" home?
- How do I even start this process?

Here are questions that might be helpful in evaluating whether a prospective group home would be a good fit:

- Is the home clean and maintained?
- Will there be enough room for your loved one?
- Are the grounds maintained?
- Is the home accessible?
- Are pets allowed?
- If other residents are in the home, are they clean, do they seem happy?
- How are "house rules" determined?
- Are the staff friendly? Do they seem knowledgeable?
- What kind of training do the staff receive?
- Do you have written policies? What are they? Which ones can I have a copy of?
- What are the staff and house manager turnover like? What is case manager turnover like?
- What kind of oversight is provided, and who is accountable to whom?
- Is there a grievance process? What is it?
- I have been told that as people with Downs Syndrome get older, they can get dementia. Does this provider understand how to address dementia?
- How can other clinical services be accessed? What is that process?
- If my loved one's needs change, how do I make sure that they are met?
- How would you plan to transition my child from school and/or my home to a group home?
- Do you offer work activities or day programming? How do you determine which one is the most beneficial? What if I want to switch?
- What training on your loved-ones diagnosis do the staff receive? How often do they receive training?
- How are daily routines determined? How do you work in my child's routines or preferences?
- What kind of life skills or other training can you offer? How are these skills taught, and who teaches them?
- What other kinds of supports do you offer or can we access? How do we access other services?

Thanks to D&S Community Services (www.dscommunity.com) for providing these questions.