

Consumers need their supports to always be aware of their activities and their whereabouts to help them stay safe. Individuals who have significant self-injurious behaviors, compulsive pica, drop-seizures, or blindly run away, need a home where they can do the things they enjoy but still be safe.

Location Requirements

- Safe access to the community.
- Access to available and affordable transportation.
- Defensible and securable space and plenty of room for activities outdoors.
- Lot that will accommodate a large home and usable yard.
- Outdoor places where interests can be pursued and new abilities explored e.g. gardens, pets, and hobbies.

Homes need to be safe for everyone

- Provide safety features to protect the person or building in the event of an emergency. Fire sprinklers, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, convenient water shutoffs, gas shutoffs, and electrical disconnects.
- Provide for personal safety with features such as scald prevention devices, overflow alarms, communication devices, door locks and viewers, and automatic shutoffs.
- Eliminate hidden areas and blind spots.

A design that supports the lifestyles and interests of the people who live together but may not choose to do things together.

- Provide at least two living spaces outside the bedroom that support a variety of different activities.
- Provide areas in the home that can be used in different and interesting ways.
- Provide areas in the home where people can be in control of their social interactions.

Structure the physical relationship with neighbors and the community to protect the privacy of the person.

- Create layers of privacy by using fencing, walls, trees, and plantings typical of the neighborhood.
- Provide soundproofing and screening in critical areas to help keep peace in the neighborhood and reduce impact of neighborhood noise on residents.
- Provide the option of loading and unloading vehicles in the garage or behind a fence.

In some situations, security features of the home need to regulate unsafe access to the community.

- Layout of the house should permit visual contact between residents and staff at all time.
- Layers of privacy can be created by using fencing, walls, trees, and plantings typical of the neighborhood.
- Arrange building or buildings on the site to create natural boundaries.
- Alarms and sensors can be used to inform staff if someone leaves without notice.
- Delayed egress at doors and gates gives staff time to respond.

Recognize the resident's fears as legitimate and provide reassurance.

- Fear of the dark: provide night lights, good switching, avoid making places where "ghosts can hide."
- Fear of things outside: provide good locks, blinds or curtains to prevent seeing in or out and utilize outdoor lighting.
- Fear of strangers: provide view to entry, peep-holes, view ports, intercoms, good locks and alarms.
- Fear of noises: provide soundproofing. Evaluate appliances and equipment and select for silent operation or place equipment in remote location.

People with Pica must not have access to non-nutritive materials that can be easily ingested.

- Use plant materials and ground covers that are not poisonous or easy to put in the mouth.
- Finish surfaces or trims must resist picking or chewing.
- Adequate lockable storage should be available throughout the house.
- Provide options and layers of security and control such as keyed or magnetic locks, high shelving and single use dispensers for soaps and shampoos.

People with Prader-Willie must have controlled access to food and water.

- Provide for controlled access to the kitchen.
- Kitchens and pantries may need securable storage for main food supply.
- Separate bulk food storage from day to day kitchen needs to prevent overeating.
- Provide good visibility throughout home.

People with autism need a predictable home that supports structure and routine.

Individuals may benefit from special features and equipment specific to their interests.

- Provide generous space to minimize stress and tension.
- Expect change and be able to adapt the environment.
- Identify preferred activities and accommodate them, for example, water play or repetitive action/motion.
- Identify sensory sensitivities and adapt the environment to minimize the impact, for example, provide additional sound proofing, modify lighting, and redirect air to eliminate drafts, quiet appliances.
- Provide good HVAC. (See also Medically Assisted)

People with self-injurious behaviors and some types of seizure disorders need a home that minimizes the risks of injury to themselves or others.

- Provide a separate quiet living spaces to reduce tensions and unwanted stimulation.
- Minimize hard or sharp features in the house, for example: round corners and softened surfaces where possible.
- Provide options to share control in areas of the house such as the kitchen, laundry, office, and garage.

People with self-injurious behaviors often have open wounds vulnerable to infection.

- Control the spread of disease through the selection of easily cleanable surfaces.
- Select surfaces and trims to prevent injury, that are soft and cleanable.

DESCRIPTION

This is a single family home, a large ground floor apartment or condominium that provides an intimate, private and comfortable setting that is a safe place for people to live who may be a danger to themselves or others. Typically 4 people will live here. Although this house is shared, individuals may choose not to do things together. Individuals may be aggressive with others or injure themselves. They may have obsessive compulsive behaviors or irritating habits, and they probably lack some safety awareness. Some consumers may run away. Supports share control with consumers and must be able to see, hear and monitor activities throughout the house. The challenge in this home is to provide a safe physical environment where there are interesting activities for consumers to do inside and outside the home, where their privacy is protected and the peace and goodwill in the neighborhood is maintained.

Risk management is paramount for consumers in this home, however, they must be able to do things they enjoy without negative consequences.

SITE SELECTION

see Site Selection Criteria, see 1.15

- Corner lots are desirable.

SITE PRIORITIES

- Neighborhood quality (calm, quiet, not too noisy)
- Neighborhood safety (not on a busy street or near a hazardous situation)
- Parking
- Pedestrian friendliness
- Social opportunities (near things to do that people enjoy: parks with swings, water features, grass)
- Neighborhood impact (protect a person’s reputation and maintain a positive relationship with neighbors)
- Personal safety
- Personal security (sites that can be private and secure when needed)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

see Safe and Sound Building Program

- Meets general standards for housing.
- Special conditions are to be determined through person-centered planning.
- An open floor plan that allows supports to see and hear activities throughout the house and to monitor access and egress.
- Generous shared spaces for individuals to do their own thing without irritating others.
- Site privacy and security features: walls, fences, plantings, gates.
- Sound proofing and screening in critical areas.
- The option of a safe, discreet loading and unloading area.
- Soft, cleanable surfaces and furnishings.
- Features such as a wet room, soft tub, quiet room, soft walls, furnishings, and soundproofing.

EXAMPLES:

- Soft House, page 4.4
- Short Stay House, page 4.6
- Weirich Road House, page 4.8
- Extended Family II House, page 3.10

ROOM SCHEDULE

Safe and Sound Shared Dwelling		Three Residents	Four Residents
Entry		35	45
Living Room		230	300
Sitting Room		80	180
Kitchen		120	150
Pantry		20	30
Dining		140	168
Bedrooms	120 each	360	480
Super Bath		108	108
2nd Resident Bath		80	80
Guest Bath		24	24
Utility/Laundry		120	120
Staff Office or Alcove		100	120
Storage Room or Closets		80	120
Net Square Feet		1,497	1,925
Walls & Circulation	25 %	374	481
Total Square Feet		1,871	2,406
Garage		400	400