



What is an Adult Family Home?

Adult Family Homes are regular neighborhood homes that are government licensed to provide elder care. They are often referred to as AFHs and are owned and run by nurses, Gerontology professional and some other forms of medical credentials.

Regardless of the size of the home, Wisconsin AFH's are only allowed to provide care for up to four residents. The care provider assumes all the responsibilities for the safety and well-being of the residents. All AFH homes must meet specific regulations for safety, access, and comfort.

They are literal homes as opposed to "home-like" settings, so residents can enjoy their location and neighbors without feeling like they're in an institution. Many prefer these arrangements to the community- or apartment-based assisted living options.

Why Adult Family Homes?

Over the last two decades, the number of Adult Family Homes have grown exponentially. This is due in large part to their affordability, but many people just choose to live in a residential house-setting in a regular neighborhood. In addition, because the AFH is limited to four residents, they receive care that is personalized to their individual needs. Whereas nursing homes and assisted living facilities may house hundreds of seniors, these AFHs form intimate bonds between the senior residents and caregivers.

Adult Family Homes provide:

- A comfortable home setting
- Room & Board
- 24-hour Supports
- A maximum staff ratio of 1 to 4 residents

Adult Family Homes can often offer a substantially higher level of personnel and healthcare than an assisted living community. Experience shows that older adults with geriatric disabilities and other mild-to-moderately disabled persons better maintain their social and cognitive skills when they live in a small family-like setting with two or three others who also require individualized care.

This is because a small and friendly environment encourages them to use their interactive skills to maintain relationships and express their needs and feelings. Therefore, central to the Adult Family Home concept is the provision of a family-like residence wherein three or four unrelated mild-to-moderately disabled adults can reside, each receiving care, treatment, and/or services beyond conventional levels of room and board as appropriate.

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