

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 practice a specific meditation practice called *Surat Shabd Yoga* (Yoga of the Sound Current), and many aspects of our lifestyle derives from this commitment. The essential elements of this lifestyle are:
 - a. vegetarian (lacto-vegetarian) diet, avoidance of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs
 - b. sincere striving for nonviolence, love and tolerance for all, truthfulness, contentment, etc.
 - c. emphasis 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 and at least one member of the Board of Directors, has been formed to review applications for residence at the *Home*. Roles of committee are:

- to ensure that each prospective resident's application is treated with fairness and with utmost respect for the applicant; and is processed according to the current admissions policy, which is based on the fundamental goals outlined above
- to review financial status of prospective resident and the resident fees expected to be paid by him/her, and in cases where resident cannot pay full fees, to contact applicant's family and friends for help with paying applicant's fees/services of an impartial third party for the review of financial status of applicants
- to maintain a balance between prospective resident's needs, the need of existing residents, and the ability of the community to support the prospective resident in terms of time and funds
- to make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding applications under review

4. We will not refuse residency to anyone who cannot pay all of the entrance or monthly fees. We will look at the need of the person first, and the options available to him or her, regardless of ability to pay.

We will endeavor to raise funds to subsidize those whose need is great and who have few options. In the beginning, funds may be short, but this will be our ideal.

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*.
2. 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. A resident must, to a large extent, be able to move about alone or with assistive devices without staff assistance.
 - b. A resident must require less than 24-hour skilled nursing care on an ongoing basis.

Please note that the Home does not provide “total care” or “24-hour skilled nursing care”; but rather assisted care level services, with 24 hour supervision.

3. We ask that new residents prepare both a *Living Will* and a *Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care* when they first enter the *Home*, as these documents assist *Pyareo Home* staff and emergency personnel in following the wishes of the resident in medical emergencies and in the course of major illnesses.
4. To the extent that space and *Home* finances permit, we also plan to open the *Home* to temporarily disabled persons, such as those recovering from an accident, illness, etc.

Interest and compatibility

1. While it is anticipated that most 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:
 - a. have a clear understanding of the lifestyle the *Home* endeavors to support
 - b. 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)
 - c. do not expect to be given exemption to the elements of a strict lacto-vegetarian diet, or the prohibition of smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol.
2. To maintain the right atmosphere within the *Home*, residents need to be tolerant of each other. Prospective residents will need to demonstrate:

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- a. a tolerant and positive attitude towards existing residents
 - b. show a commitment to become a member of the *Home* community
 - c. have a realistic expectation and understanding of what services will be given to them
3. We require 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 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 do not have the specialized staff or cannot provide the appropriate assistive devices.
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. In appreciation of the nonprofit nature of *Pyareo Home*, residents and their immediate families are asked to strive sincerely to place the least financial burden possible on the community which supports the *Home*, and acknowledge the need to fully contribute financially towards the running of *Pyareo Home*.
2. 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 commitments.
 - a. Prospective residents will be asked to provide sufficient background financial information to enable the *Home* to establish their ability to meet their financial commitments.
 - b. If candidates and their immediate families cannot provide the entrance fee and monthly fees required of them, they must be prepared for an objective and thorough review of their financial status.

- c. 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.

3. In recognition of the freedom of residents to make their own financial decisions, primary responsibility for a resident's financial obligations rests, in the first instance, with the resident; and in the second instance, with the resident's immediate family.
4. In recognition of the freedom of residents to manage their own health care, residents and their immediate families are financially responsible for the consequences of all decisions made regarding the resident's health requirements. Thus the direct cost for services of full-time personal care attendants, nurses and/or physicians will be borne by the resident.
5. To assist each resident in making his/her best financial and health care decisions, and in recognition of overlapping areas of responsibility for these decisions among the resident, his/her immediate family and the *Home*, a Support Committee - composed of the resident, a member of his/her immediate family, and the *Home* - will be formed for each resident. Each committee will review financial and health care choices available to the resident, and weigh the consequences of each option. Decisions within each committee will be made by consensus, but in aspects which do not affect the *Home* or the immediate family, the resident's decision will prevail.
6. See also par. 4 of the *Application Review Process* above.

Financial details

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. Initially at least, we will therefore reassess cash flows twice a year, and if necessary, adjust 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. 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:

- a. they must accept and support the essential goals of the *Home*, as outlined above
 - b. they must agree in principle to supporting the resident financially
 - c. they need to be involved with decision-making regarding the resident's welfare, with regular visits, and a generally caring attitude
2. Lack of support or active criticism of *Pyareo Home* philosophy and policies by close relatives of a resident can lead to practical difficulties, hurt feelings, or worse.

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.

3. 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

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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.

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 in previous paragraphs):
 - a. Our inability to provide services for the level of a resident's disability
 - b. Lack of candor and cooperation regarding financial matters
 - c. Repeated violent or other improper behavior by a resident, resulting in trauma to others
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.