



Specialized Housing, Inc.

RESIDENT CRITERIA

Many families wonder what the “typical” resident of an SHI household is like and whether their relative will fit in. The simple statement is that there is no “typical” SHI resident. We serve people who are atypical, everyone from the college graduate with honors to a person who cannot read at all, from a person whose disability may be visible, to a person with a “hidden” disability. As long as the individual wants to live with the others in the household and needs the support offered in order to function as independently as he or she is able, the arrangement can work.

Several long-term residents of SHI households came from institutional settings. The vast majority always lived in the family home. Some have Down Syndrome, Williams Syndrome, or other genetic conditions. Others have unspecified developmental challenges. Many are on the Autism spectrum. Each household supports a range of disabilities. Every resident excels in certain areas and needs support in others. Residents learn to be supportive of each other, in practical ways and emotional ways. They show a profound maturity in being there for each other in times of crisis, i.e., death of a loved one, etc.

All of the residents do something productive most days of the week. Some are employed in competitive positions, part or full-time. Some may not be able to handle an open, competitive work site and instead, are employed in supported work. Some work in groups under a supervisor employed by a vocational agency. Some work as volunteers. Some are in day habilitation for a portion of the week.

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We, the administration and staff, are never able to predict who in the household will form strong friendships with each other. Even those residents who don’t seem to form these friendships have a sense of belonging from being part of the household.

The following are general criteria to assist you in making a broad interpretation regarding a potential resident's appropriateness for supervised independent living.

I. Adults, age 18 and up.

II. Social Skills

- A. Relates appropriately to peers and other adults.
- B. Shows no grossly inappropriate behavior or limiting emotional disorders.
- C. Is receptive to limits, rules, and structure.
- D. Respects the property and privacy of others.
- E. Responds appropriately when spoken to (verbalization).
- F. Displays the following characteristics: alertness, interest, motivation.

III. Basic Life Skills

- A. Practices good personal hygiene (reminders to do so are acceptable).
- B. Reads some (probably at least 2nd grade level) or has developed other ways to orient him/herself.
- C. Possesses money management skills or is willing to accept help in managing money.
- D. Is capable of travel in the community.
- E. Is productively occupied during the day.

IV. Physical Characteristics

- A. Seizures must be controlled by medication.
- B. Cannot have daily behavior impaired by overmedication.

We recognize that an applicant may excel in certain areas and not in others. Please contact us with any questions you have about these very general criteria.