



## Q & A: the adult family home assessment & preliminary service plan

### **why is an assessment necessary?**

Washington State law (WAC 388–76–610) requires everyone moving into an adult family home to obtain a comprehensive assessment prior to beginning residency.

### **what is the purpose of the assessment?**

The assessment process is designed to gather information about your loved one's current care needs and lifestyle preferences. This information ensures that adult family home providers and caregivers understand vital information about your family member.

### **who completes the assessment?**

The assessment is completed by a professional like a social worker, nurse or mental health provider who has training and experience working with adults and disabled people with functional or cognitive disabilities. Qualifications of assessors are described in the Washington Administrative Code: WAC 388-76-61050.

### **what does the law require of the professional assessor?**

Washington State law requires the assessor to:

- Gather and analyze information about the overall status of the resident
- Provide information to the adult family home provider described in the Washington Administrative Code: WAC 388-76-61020
- Determine if the resident is developmentally disabled, has a mental illness or dementia. (These conditions require care in specialty adult family homes)
- Develop the preliminary service plan of care (or care plan)

### **what happens after the assessment is complete?**

Once the in-person assessment is completed, a written assessment and preliminary service plan is developed and sent to you and/or the adult family home of your choice.

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### **when and how often does the law require my loved one to be assessed?**

According to Washington State law, evaluation must occur:

- Prior to admission to the adult family home (except under rare circumstances)
- At least every twelve months
- When there is a significant change in the resident's physical or mental condition
- At the resident's or legal representative's request

### **how long does it take and what's involved?**

The in-person assessment takes about 2 hours to complete. The written portion usually takes an additional 6-10 hours.

### **Is there a fee for the assessment and who pays?**

Yes, there is a charge. The fee is usually paid by the resident or their representative. Contact Aging Wisdom at 206.456.5155 for more information.

