

Monitoring Adult Care Homes

Adult Care Homes, commonly referred to as Rest Homes or Family Care Homes, are homes which provide residential care for aged and disabled adults. These homes provide around-the-clock or live-in staff who prepare meals, supervise medications, provide assistance with bathing, grooming and other personal care needs. Adult Care Homes not only provide care for the elderly, but also for those with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities and substance abuse problems. Family Care Homes provide care for up to six people in a family-like setting. These homes are usually found in residential areas and provide assistance with meeting the residents' daily needs and have staff on duty 24 hours a day. Nurses are not required in Adult Care Homes, although some do have nurses and certified nursing assistants on staff. Aides provide assistance with the activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, grooming and feeding. Adult Care Homes are different from nursing homes in the level of care they provide and the qualifications of staff.

NC Division of Health Service Regulation is responsible for licensing Adult Care Homes. Lee County Department of Social Services is responsible for providing an Adult Home Specialist to monitor the facilities provision of services to the residents as set forth by the State standards. The Adult Services Unit provides an Adult Home Specialist (AHS), whose purpose is to monitor, investigate complaints, and provide assistance to facilities. If there are any problems identified during the routine monitoring of the facility, the AHS is responsible to assure that a corrective plan is completed and signed by facility administrator and the problem is corrected.

Adult Care Home Licensing and Monitoring Services Include:

- Assist the State with Initial Licensure Process
- Investigations on "Unlicensed Facilities"
- Technical Assistance
- Routine Monitoring
- Complaint Investigation
- Negative Actions

Annually the AHS is responsible for completing a comprehensive evaluation of all licensure areas, and developing an Annual Monitoring Plan to prioritize and target each area for review. The areas include:

- Medication
- Activities
- Resident Funds
- Food Service
- Admission and Discharge
- Physical Environment
- Management and Personnel
- Health Care
- Resident Rights