

Not all senior living communities offer the same level of security. Use this checklist as a reference on visits to ensure the Senior building has established adequate security measures and protocols.

DOOR SECURITY

- Locked Exterior Doors:** Verify that all exterior doors, except the main entrance, remain locked at all times from the outside.
- Resident Access Control:** Ensure exterior doors are accessible to residents through secure means such as card swipe, keypad, key fob, or fingerprint recognition.
- No Propping Policy:** Inspect the surroundings of exterior doors for objects that may indicate doors are being propped open.
- Peephole Installation:** Check if resident front doors, whether interior or exterior, has a peephole adjusted to the resident's height for functionality.
- After-Hour Visitor Entry:** Understand the community's protocol for managing visitor entry outside of regular business hours.
- Nightly Security Check:** Determine who is responsible for ensuring all exterior doors are securely closed and locked each night.

VISITOR/VENDOR ENTRY

- Digital Check-in:** Ensure a centralized digital check-in system that requires all people entering the building to sign in and out every time they visit.
- Visit Data:** Verify the digital check-in system logs visitor identity, entry and exit times, the purpose of the visit, and captures a photo at check-in.
- Visit Alerts:** Check that real-time alerts can be sent to the resident and guardian every time a visitor checks in to see a resident.
- Daily Name Badge:** Confirm that every person entering the community is required to wear a name badge for the duration of their visit.

VENDOR/CAREGIVER SCREENING

- Background Check:** Verify the community mandates that third-party and self-employed private caregivers maintain a valid state and federal background check on record.
- License Plate Capture:** Ensure the license plate number of vendors/service providers is digitally recorded at check-in.

SECURITY CAMERAS

- Camera Locations:** Confirm the presence of working security cameras at exterior doors and security gates and, ideally, in hallways, common areas, elevators, and parking lots.
- Active Monitoring:** Verify the software system for monitoring security cameras is active and readily accessible to administration for review.
- Recording Retention:** Ask about the duration of security footage retention, which should ideally be between 30 and 90 days.
- Personal Recording Devices:** Ask if residents can install personal video doorbells at their front doors and personal cameras in their residence.

SECURITY PROTOCOLS

- Transparency:** Ensure management regularly shares security reports or holds Crime Watch meetings with residents and families.
- Training:** Verify that regular security and campus awareness training is required for staff, residents, volunteers, and frequent vendors.
- Incident Notification:** Confirm that when 911 is dispatched, residents and families are notified in writing about the nature of the incident.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Inventory of Valuables:** Make a habit of photographing or videotaping valuables in the resident's living space for record-keeping.
- Security Signage:** To discourage potential intruders, consider placing a security deterrent sign, such as "Smile, You're on Camera," near the resident's front door.
- Door Safety Practices:** Remind family members and residents of the importance of verifying everyone's identity before opening the door.
- Daily Resident Check:** Inquire whether the community provides a daily check-in service to monitor resident well-being regularly.
- Mail Confidentiality:** Check that mail system measures are in place to conceal resident names and apartment numbers.