If your loved one can no longer live independently, should he or she move in with you? Here are some questions you both should consider.

If your loved one can no longer live on his or her own—due to illness, disability, or general problems associated with aging—the decision of whether he or she should live with you is often an emotional one.

You and other family members should carefully consider whether the move is really the best idea in the long run. To avoid making a rash decision, read and answer the following questions.

- Is your relationship with your loved one open and honest? If so, has it always been this way?

- What kind of living conditions can you offer your loved one? Will the space allow him or her to have privacy? Will this interfere with the privacy of other family members?

- If necessary, can you easily adapt your home to accommodate your loved one’s disability or mobility problems? Would you be willing to do so?

- How much care does your loved one need? Can you realistically provide the necessary care?

- Have you discussed the move with your immediate family members? How do they feel about the situation? If anyone is resentful, are you prepared to deal with this?

- If your loved one moves in, and the situation doesn’t work out, are you willing to make alternative living arrangements for your loved one?

Be honest in your feelings and answers to each question and encourage others to do the same. Each family’s decision is different and you know your family best. Obviously, if more of these questions produce answers that you perceive to be negative, finding other living arrangements for your loved one may be the best answer. If more of your answers are positive, and all concerned agree to give it a try, having a loved one move in with you can be an extremely rewarding experience.

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