

HOMESHARE APPLICATION PROCESS

Program Orientation

Carefully read the all information.

Interview

During the application interview we will ask you many questions about your life style and preferences. You will be asked to sign a release of information, which allows us to share with other prospective HomeSharers the information we have learned about you. We will also ask you to provide names and phone numbers of three or four people who are not related to you but who know you well. It is wise to come to the interview with a written list of these references.

Reference Check

After the interview, we will check your references and determine if our HomeShare Program can be helpful to you. There are some situations that cannot be well served by HomeShare. Please see the list of limitations section.

Referral

At this point in the process we check our list of current situations to see if anyone registered with us meets your needs. If so, you will receive a call from your counselor describing the other person. It is important to remember that who you choose to meet or have a trial period with is **your** decision. At any point during the referral and introduction stage you can decide that this particular match is not for you.

Introduction

If both parties agree, an introduction is scheduled. A counselor will be present, unless you decide this is unnecessary. The counselor will help you ask questions and get to know one another. We encourage you to meet as often as you like before making a decision.

Trial Period

If both parties are interested, we will help you set up a mutually agreed upon "trial period." This is an opportunity to find out what it is like to live together. If the trial period does not work out the seeker needs to have a place to move back to. For this reason we urge seekers not to give up their current living situations until they are sure the HomeShare arrangement is going to work out. Also, we urge providers to try to accommodate the fact that during the trial period the seeker may be paying rent somewhere else.

Written Agreement

Once a HomeShare match is made, the final step is to formalize the arrangement with a written agreement. Items covered in this document are: rent, services, meals, phone, quiet hours, termination of agreement, and any issues both parties want included. HomeShare lease agreements are in effect on a month-to-month basis.

Ongoing Support

Once you are matched in a HomeShare situation, you are still welcome to call your HomeShare counselor, should any problems arise. Also, your counselor may call you from time to time to say "hi" and see how things are going.

A lot of care and planning has gone into the HomeShare process, with advantages built in for both parties. Our goal is to help you select a compatible housemate with complementary needs. Despite how wonderful your HomeSharer is, however, there will be times you disagree on matters. We recommend that you set aside certain times of the day or week on a regular basis to meet and talk with each other. In this way, when conflicts occur, there is a natural forum already established in which to resolve your differences. A commitment to such a regular meeting helps lay the groundwork for confronting problems and changes together before they grow into major differences. When people live together, they need to feel that their lives are equally enhanced. When you are exploring a shared arrangement, look for that balance and sense of mutuality.