



CARERS FACT SHEET 5

Housing and Security of Tenure

Housing

Whether you live with the person you care for or not, you still need to make sure that the property is suitable for what you need to do as a carer. You should also check that the housing needs of both you and the person you care for are looked after in the future.

You may find that there are alterations that can be made to the property to make life easier, and you should speak to an occupational therapist about this in the first instance. Contact your local Social Service office or Social Services OT Direct 0845 600 45 55 for details. You may be able to get a grant to help you with the cost of any alteration.

It may be that the person you care for really needs to move into accommodation better suited to their needs. Remember that, although you may not want to see them move, it may be the best thing in the long run and the sooner you organise the move, the more of a chance the person you care for will have to settle in.

Housing Benefits and grants to alter premises can help with making your housing more suitable for someone with a disability. You should contact your local Borough/District/City Council for information about these benefits.

The law and security of tenure

Make sure that your own needs are not neglected. If you don't own the property you live in or are not a joint tenant, then there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to stay if the person you care for has to move out.

You should seek legal advice, as housing law is very complex. Your local Citizens Advice Bureau can direct you to solicitors who specialise in housing law.

If you jointly own the property with the person you care for, it may need to be taken into account by the Social Services Department when they organise residential care.

This doesn't mean you will be evicted, but you should, again, take advice – see the Guide to Residential Care for more information. You should speak to a solicitor if you wish to preserve an inheritance for your family.