

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 cared-for person 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. Call the Contact Centre (023 8083 4567) for details. You may be allocated a grant to help you with the cost of any alteration.

It may be that the cared-for person really needs to move into alternative accommodation better suited to their needs. You may not want to see them move, but it may be the best option.

You may need help with making your housing more suitable for someone with a disability. Contact your local council for information about available grants.

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, there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to stay if the cared-for person has to move out.

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

If you jointly own the property with the cared-for person, it may need to be taken into account by the local authority 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 discuss issues around inheritance for your family.