

**From:** Richard Brooks [mailto:[vierabrooks@yahoo.com](mailto:vierabrooks@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2012 9:11 AM  
**To:** Kaempfer, Susan  
**Cc:** Haston, Shaddrick  
**Subject:** Re: Assisted Living Assistance

Hello Again

I will be out of town on the 27th but do appreciate that you will share my thoughts on this very difficult issue. The concept of staying in my own community in later years has come appeal and we all know that the baby boom generation will be a very large demographic in 20 years.

I have no issue with a for profit business setting up shop to care for those who need help but the concerns raised in the example in my development are very different from a caring environment.

Susan---I have a simple test for the workshop participants after they hear and read the about the problems in these places as follows: Assume you have the cash to afford the monthly outlay for a couple of years. Would you want to finish your life in this type of environment? If the answer is no, then there must be a solution in oversight and law.

Again, Thank you. Richard Brooks

**From:** Richard Brooks [mailto:[vierabrooks@yahoo.com](mailto:vierabrooks@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 14, 2012 6:07 PM  
**To:** Kaempfer, Susan  
**Subject:** Assisted Living Assistance

Hello Susan,

I'm never sure how to address these types of letters but from what I am led to believe you are going to participate in an Assisted Living Workshop this month and I would like to express some thoughts on this issue. That being said...I'm back to Hello Susan.

Several years ago my wife and I looked all over the East Coast for a place to start the next phase in our lives. Some call it retirement which for me has a whole different connotation; I call it life in summer camp. We chose to move to Heritage Isle in Brevard County, Florida, for many reasons including life style. We found a community where we could find folks from all over all looking for the same thing, along with a comfort level knowing that our environment would be a safe, secure, friendly place to live.

Not long after settling in and becoming involved we were all made aware of a small Assisted Living Home that was established in our Planned Unit Development. The resident population of six seems to have no oversight. We really had no clue what this was. Actually I have a 97 year old parent and the concept of assisted living is something I have been investigating should the need arise. I looked into established assisted living places and while they lack the personal touch, do serve a purpose but that is not the reason for this note to you today.

My neighbors and I are particularly concerned about what is happening all over our county where small assisted living homes are sprouting up with virtually no regulation. The one in our midst has an offsite owner. The help that is there just had to take a two hour class to become a care giver. I recently attended a workshop where I was told that any homeowner with two or more extra bedrooms who needs cash can take a 26 hour class and then turn those extra bedrooms into a profit making business collecting around \$3500 per month per resident. Cash. Two to a room. I am absolutely certain that this was not the intention of the legislature when this concept was formulated. In theory it sounds nice. I'll get older, maybe need care, and why not stay in my community but in reality that is not what we have here.

The homeowners adjacent to this facility in Heritage Isle have had to deal with people who are in hospice requiring emergency ambulance calls in the middle of the night, an Alzheimer patient who "got out" and went knocking on neighbors doors telling them to get out of her house, a worker literally wheeling a patient on a gurney down the street, a resident of the home carrying on in front of an open window with no clothing on---it goes on and on but you get the picture. These places are not where you would put a loved one, but rather where you would dump a burden. I won't go into the issues of the parties that have required police intervention. After all, the residents are defenseless....lets party. Amazing. Before I go on I would ask you to please try this experiment: Imagine you are retired and you bought a home in your dream community only to be awoken in the middle of the night by the constant commotion---You get the picture I'm sure.

As you will be participating in a workshop on these issues of assisted living I hope that you will have a better understanding of what happens when the rule makers go home and the lights go out. Who is providing oversight? Who will take the responsibility? Why is a private home being turned into a holding facility for profit allowed? What is the purpose of a Planned Unit Development if the legislative rules and regulations can be ignored for profit? Who is to be held responsible when neglect turns to death in an unregulated environment? Sooner or later this will become a front page story. Hopefully Florida will be in a leadership role.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter.

Respectfully, Richard Brooks, Viera, Florida.