Things to Consider When Looking for Recovery Housing:

Quality and Standards:

Not all recovery housing is the same. Understanding quality and standards can help individuals and families choose a safe, supportive, and trustworthy environment that promotes long-term recovery.

High-quality recovery housing should meet clear standards that support safety, stability, and ethical care.

What Quality Recovery Housing Looks Like:

- The home has a clear mission focused on recovery, stability, and personal growth.
- Living spaces are safe, clean, and well-maintained with functioning utilities and basic safety measures.
- Policies, rules, and expectations are transparent and provided in writing.
- Residents are treated ethically, fairly, and with respect at all times.
- The home connects residents to recovery supports such as counseling, mutual aid groups, employment, or education services.
- The level of structure is appropriate to the type of recovery housing and resident needs (peer-run or more structured environments).
- Leadership or staff (if applicable) demonstrate recovery knowledge, training, or lived experience.
- Regular house meetings or community check-ins are held to support accountability and communication.
- The home maintains clear linkages to community resources and support systems.
- Resident rights and dignity are consistently respected and upheld.

Common Quality Indicators:

- Written policies and resident agreements
- Consistent house rules and accountability practices
- Staff or leadership with recovery experience or training (varies by level of housing)
- Regular house meetings or community check-ins
- Linkages to community recovery resources
- Respect for resident rights and dignity

Questions to Ask About Quality & Standards:

- Is the recovery home affiliated with any recognized organization or certification body?
- What standards or guidelines does the home follow?
- Are staff or house managers trained in recovery support or peer recovery?
- How is the home monitored or evaluated for quality?
- What is included in the rent or fees? Are there any additional or hidden costs?
- How does the home ensure safety and accountability for all residents?
- Can I see the written policies and resident handbook?

Things to Look Out For:

- Lack of clear rules, contracts, or written expectations
- Unclear or inconsistent fee structures
- Pressure to move in quickly without a tour or questions
- Limited information about management or oversight
- Unsafe or poorly maintained living conditions
- Restrictions that feel controlling rather than supportive

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