

The Florida Eldercare Inspection Checklist

Seven things to read in the public record before you tour.

01 Confirm the license status

Make sure the facility is currently Licensed with AHCA — not Provisional, In Review, or under litigation. A clean license is the floor, not the ceiling.

02 Read the CMS overall star rating

For nursing homes, weigh the three sub-ratings — health inspections, staffing, quality measures — not just the headline number.

03 Check staffing separately

Staffing hours per resident and nurse turnover predict day-to-day care more than anything else. A high overall score with one-star staffing deserves questions.

04 Look for the abuse icon & Special Focus status

These are the heaviest federal red flags. Any facility carrying them warrants extreme caution.

05 Count Class I and II deficiencies

Class I is an immediate threat to health or safety. Recurring Class II findings suggest systemic problems.

06 Separate fines from defaults

An upheld fine is an adverse finding; a dismissed or withdrawn case is not. Don't let a long "documents on file" list scare you without reading the dispositions.

07 Verify what you're told on the tour

Bring the record. If the staffing or services described in person don't match the public data, ask why.