

— The New Jersey Family Guide to —

Moving Into Senior Living

**A Step-by-Step Plan for Downsizing, Preparing
the Home, and Making the Transition Smooth**



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Senior Transition Advisor

Welcome

Families across New Jersey often face the same challenge when a loved one is preparing to move into senior living: *where do we begin?*

This guide explains the transition process and provides practical tools to help families make confident decisions.

Why Planning Early Matters

The smoothest transitions begin **with** a plan. Families who understand the steps involved in downsizing, preparing the home, and coordinating the move experience far less stress.

In this guide we cover

- ◆ How to Prepare for a Move to Senior Living
- ◆ Downsizing Without Overwhelm
- ◆ What Families Should Do Before the Move



The Senior Living Transition Roadmap

A Simple, Step-by-Step Guide
for Families



1 Explore Senior Living Options



Visit communities, discuss needs, and find the best fit.

2 Create a Transition Plan

Set a timeline, assign tasks, and outline next steps.



3 Downsize Belongings



Sort items to keep, give to family, sell, or donate.

4 Prepare the Home

Declutter, clean, and stage the house for sale.

5 Coordinate the Move

Schedule movers and settle into the new home.



Support your loved one throughout the process

Typical Transition Timeline

A General Timeline for Downsizing, Preparing the Home, & Planning the Move



8+ Weeks Before

- Visit communities
- Discuss preferences and make a decision



6 Weeks Before

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- ✓ • Create a downsizing plan
- ✓ • Assign tasks and set timeline



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4 Weeks Before

- Sort belongings
- Donate/sell/give items
- Coordinate home preparation

2 Weeks Before

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- ✓ • Declutter and stage home
- ✓ • Schedule moving services
- ✓ • Organize family move details



Moving Day!

- Supervise the move
- Settle into the new home.



Note: Timelines vary depending on family situation and market conditions.

7 Mistakes Families Make When Moving to Senior Living

Common pitfalls that make the move into senior living more stressful and difficult.



1. Waiting too long to begin planning

- Procrastinating postpones the inevitable and adds unnecessary stress.



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2. Trying to downsize without a clear strategy

- Attempting to sort belongings haphazardly leads to overwhelmed families.



3. Believing the house must be completely empty before moving

- Waiting until the house is empty before moving can delay the transition.



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5. Trying to manage everything without professional help

- The process is smoother when professionals help downsize and coordinate.



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7. Waiting until the move is urgent to start decisions

- Last-minute decisions lead to limited options and hasty, stressful choices.



Plan early to avoid last-minute decisions and make the move to senior living smoother and less stressful.

Downsizing a Lifetime of Belongings

Sorting through a loved one's possessions can be both emotional and overwhelming. Here are some steps and tips to help make the downsizing process easier:

Sort & Organize



Divide items into keep, family, sell, and donate piles.

Share with Family



Some belongings carry memories worth passing down.

Sell Unwanted Items



Estate sales and auctions can turn unused belongings into funds.

Donate to Charity



Items that are no longer needed can benefit someone else.

Downsizing isn't just about reducing belongings — *it's about deciding what matters most.*

Many families find that working with a transition advisor makes downsizing faster and less stressful.



Real Family Example

How One New Jersey Family Planned a Smooth Move to Senior Living

When the Thompson family began discussing senior living with their mother, Mary, they felt overwhelmed.

Mary had lived in **her** home for more than **40 years**. The house was full of memories—family photos, furniture collected over decades, and closets packed with belongings that hadn't been touched in years.

Her daughter Lisa wondered:

Step 1 Understanding the Timeline

The family started by visiting a few senior living communities and choosing the one that felt like the best fit.

Once they selected a move-in date about **six weeks** away, the process began to feel more **manageable**.



Step 2 Creating a Downsizing Plan

Instead of trying to sort everything at once, the family focused on one room at a time.

They divided items into four simple categories:

- **Keep** for the new apartment
- **Family** items to pass down
- **Sell** through an estate sale
- **Donate** to local charities



Step 3 Preparing the Home

Once the downsizing was underway, the home could be prepared for sale.

The family cleared excess furniture, organized remaining belongings, and scheduled the services needed for the transition.



> The Result

Instead of feeling chaotic and stressful, *the transition unfolded* step by step.

Within a few weeks, Mary was enjoying new friends, activities, and the peace of mind that comes with having the right support nearby.

What Families Say About Working With Us

Families often tell us the same thing after the move is complete...



“George made moving family to assisted living smooth...”

Robin Zusmann — June 18, 2025

George made moving family to assisted living smooth, especially since I had to arrange everything long distance. His crew were nice and efficient. I would recommend using them.



“This is a no brainer...”

Kristina Cigler — June 27, 2025

If you're looking for a moving company that specializes in making your loved ones transition seamless, this is a no brainer. George and his team are fair, reliable and trustworthy. They take the time to develop a plan, explain what they will offer and exceed expectations.



“We confidently refer families to George...”

Leslie Yngojo-Bowes — May 14, 2025

We confidently refer families to George Pizzo knowing they'll be in compassionate, capable hands. His team approaches every family with empathy, professionalism, and a genuine desire to make difficult transitions easier.



“I cannot imagine a better group...”

Peter Pendell — March 18, 2025

They are sensitive and caring, but they also get the job done. They work hard and obviously love what they do.



“Outstanding service...”

Robert Rice — January 19, 2025

George Pizzo and his crew provided outstanding service in managing my downsizing and moving experience. I recommend George highly, without reservation.



“They lifted a heavy burden...”

Lauren Dunning — October 2, 2023

They blend kindness, compassion, and empathy with efficiency. Highly recommended.



“They made it easy for me...”

Soumya Shrivastava — January 22, 2021

George and his team made a very stressful situation manageable. I would highly recommend their services.

Most Families Tell Us the Same Thing...

"We don't know where to start."

You don't have to figure this out on your own.

A simple conversation can help your family move forward with clarity, confidence, and a clear plan.



Start With a Complimentary Consultation

A one-hour planning consultation helps families understand what needs to happen, in what order, and who to trust to get it done.

- A clear understanding of the next steps
- A realistic timeline for the move
- Guidance on what to keep, sell, donate, or discard
- Trusted resources for each part of the process

We Help Families With:

- Downsizing a lifetime of belongings
- Estate sales or liquidation of household contents
- Packing and moving coordination
- Cleanouts and donation coordination

Contact

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You Don't Have to Do This Alone

Most families start this process feeling overwhelmed and unsure where to begin. The good news is—you don't have to figure this out on your own.

Start With a Complimentary Consultation

- A clear plan for what needs to happen next
 - A realistic timeline for the move
- Guidance on what to keep, sell, donate, or pass along
 - Trusted resources to handle each step



Scan to Schedule Your Consultation



SCAN ME

Or visit <https://silverkeyrelocation.com>



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Helping families move forward with clarity, confidence, and peace of mind.