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*"The safety of the people
is the highest law"*

-CICERO

Looking for a Good Nursing Home ?

The federal government provides ratings on its website *Nursing Home Compare*. But many people find that site's star ranking system unreliable. The system does not include resident family's feedback. The nursing homes know how to game the system. "I think the ratings are distorted" said Dr. John Schnelle, director of the Center for Quality Aging at Vanderbilt University.

What to do

Experts advise starting your investigation with online sites: Yelp, Nursing Home Inspect (created by ProPublica). Be aware that online placement services such as A Place for Mom get money from the nursing homes for referrals.

In the end you need to visit the nursing home, walk around, talk to residents, family and staff. Ask lots of questions. Then go back and do it again. "You want as many sources as you can. Everyone has a different piece of the elephant to touch," says Dr. Robert Applebaum, a gerontologist at Miami University.

Respectfully,

