Planning Your Move?

The Guide to a Smooth Retirement Transition

EstateProbate.services

Is it time to make a change?

"Many older adults reach a moment when daily life at home begins to feel less manageable. It may be subtle at first — a few extra worries, more effort to keep up with the house, or growing concerns about safety, health, and daily routines. At the same time, there may be a desire for something simpler: a space that's comfortable, safe, and designed for your stage of life. Choosing to move into a retirement residence is not about losing independence — it's about preserving it, while gaining peace of mind, support, and freedom from everyday burdens.

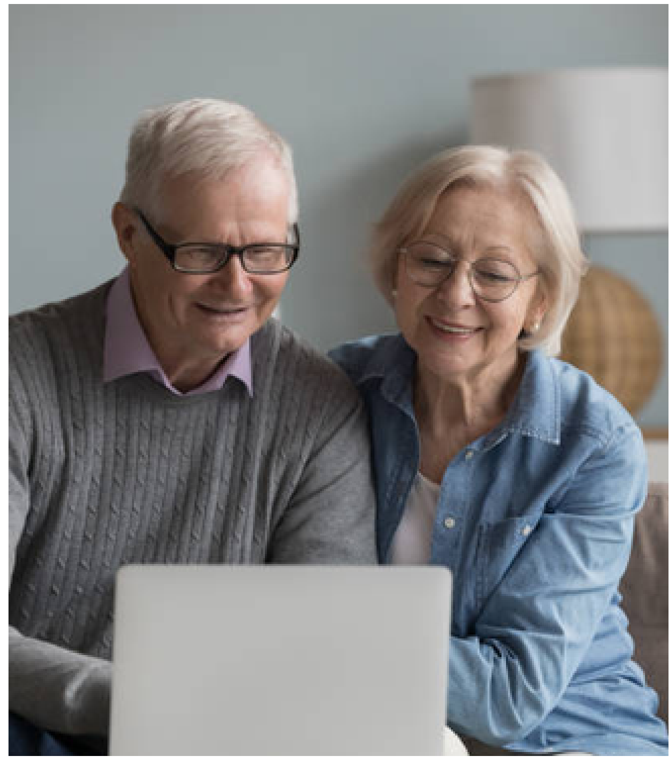
Of course, the process itself can feel incredibly overwhelming.

What happens to your home? What legal and financial steps are required? How do you involve your family or protect them from unnecessary stress? These are complex and deeply personal questions. The transition into retirement living is not only practical, but emotional. It means letting go of some things, making decisions that affect others, and preparing for a new environment. You may feel confident one day and uncertain the next, and that's completely natural. The key is knowing what steps to take and in what order.

This guide is here to provide clarity.

It outlines the entire transition: what to prepare, who to notify, how to protect your rights, and what to expect along the way. Whether you're ready to move or just exploring, it offers clarity at every step. You don't need all the answers today — but when the time comes, you'll move forward with dignity, confidence, and the assurance that every detail has been thoughtfully considered. This isn't the end of something, but a new beginning.

Making the Decision and Appointing the **Right Support**



Making the Decision and Appointing the Right Before anything can move forward, like paperwork, planning, or selling your home, a few simple things need to be clear.

First, it's important that you feel ready. No one can or should make this decision for you. It's your life and your choice.

Second, if someone is helping you, such as a son, daughter, or trusted friend, they may need legal permission to act on your behalf. This is especially important for things like banking, signing documents, or making medical decisions if you are ever unwell.

These are the two most common documents:

- Power of Attorney for Property – allows someone to help with financial or housing matters.
- Power of Attorney for Personal Care – allows someone to help with healthcare decisions if needed.

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If you don't have these documents yet, that's okay. They can be created and signed when you're ready. The purpose is simply to make sure your wishes are followed and that anyone assisting you has the proper support to do so. You stay in control. This just makes sure the process is clear, safe, and respectful for everyone involved.

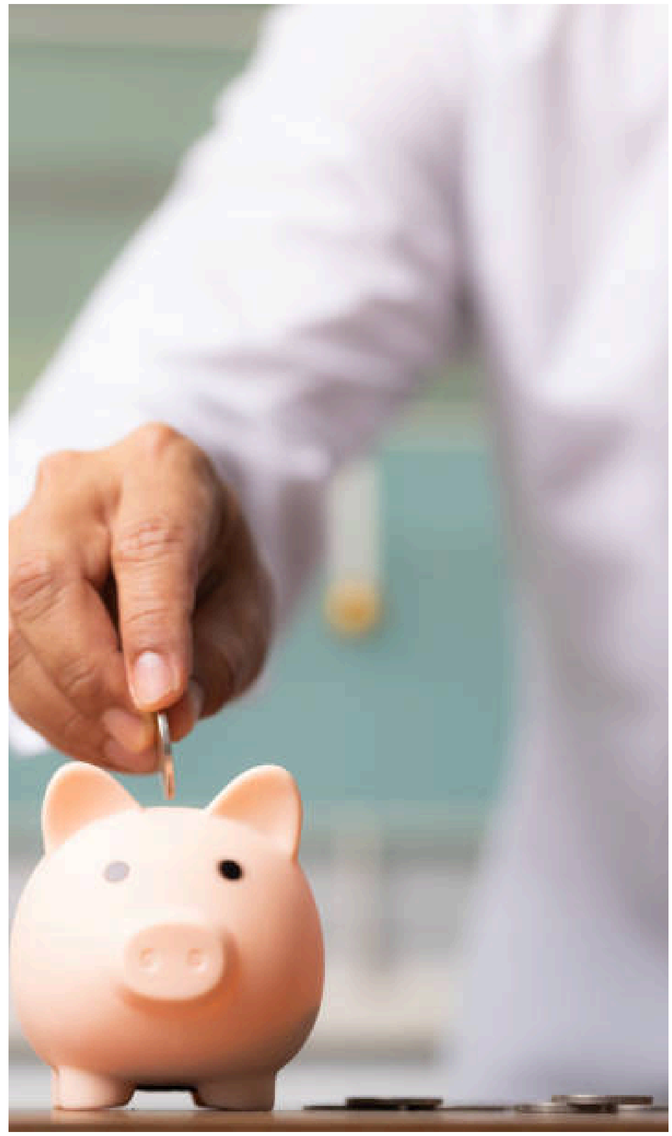
Your Health Details
What to Prepare Before the Move

When moving into a retirement residence, the staff will want to make sure they fully understand your health needs so they can support you safely and comfortably. That's why they ask for some basic medical information before you move in. Most of these things are easy to get — and if you need help, your doctor or pharmacy can usually assist.

- Your Ontario Health Card (OHIP). Proof that you're covered by Ontario's health insurance.
- A List of Your Medications. The names, doses, and how often you take them. Your pharmacy or doctor can give you this list.
- A Health Summary. A short overview of any conditions, allergies, or recent hospital stays.
- Your Doctor's Contact Information. So the retirement residence can reach out if they need records or follow-up care.
- Immunization Record
- Including COVID-19 shots, flu vaccine, and any others you've had recently.
- Consent to Share Medical Information. You may need to sign a simple form to allow your doctor or pharmacy to send your records to the residence.
- Your Pharmacy's Contact Information. So medication orders and deliveries can be arranged smoothly.
- Health Assessment (if required)
- Some residences may ask your doctor or nurse to confirm that you're able to live safely in their care.

Get Financially
Ready for the Move

Before moving into a retirement residence, it's important to understand what income you'll have and whether it will cover your new monthly costs. That means reviewing your pensions, savings, and other financial details to see where things stand.



Overlooking RRSP or RRIF accounts can result in inaccurate income reporting, which *may affect your eligibility for government benefits* or create budgeting issues. If you're unsure how your retirement savings affect your move, we can help review everything and make sure it's fully aligned.

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These are the documents and details you'll need to collect:

☐ ***Canada Pension Plan (CPP)*** Statement of Contributions (obtained via My Service Canada Account)

☐ ***Old Age Security (OAS)*** entitlement and

☐ ***Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)*** eligibility

☐ ***Employer pension statements***

☐ ***Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF)*** or

☐ ***Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP)*** statements

☐ ***Recent Notice of Assessment*** from Canada Revenue Agency

☐ ***All bank account statements***

☐ ***Investment account statements***

☐ ***Details of life insurance policies*** (if used for financial leverage)

☐ ***Any existing debts, obligations, or secured loans***

How to Afford Retirement Living: **4 Smart Strategies**

For many older adults and their families, the idea of retirement living offers peace of mind — a safe, comfortable place with support when it's needed most. But one common concern remains: Can we afford it? The good news is, with the right planning, retirement living is often more affordable than people think.

01 Maximize Government Support and Tax Credits

Before using personal savings, check that you are receiving all eligible government benefits and credits such as OAS, CPP, GIS, survivor or veteran support, and key tax deductions. These can significantly reduce your monthly costs.

02 Use the Value of Your Home Wisely

If you sell your home, the proceeds can be invested in low-risk options like GICs or government bonds to generate steady monthly income. Even a 2–3% return could provide \$1,000–\$1,900 a month from an average Canadian home sale.

03 Bridge Financing Without Selling Right Away

Sometimes it's not the right time to sell your home — a loved one may still live there, or the market may be down. In the meantime, options like a line of credit or reverse mortgage can help cover costs and give you flexibility until you're ready.

04 Additional Financial Resources

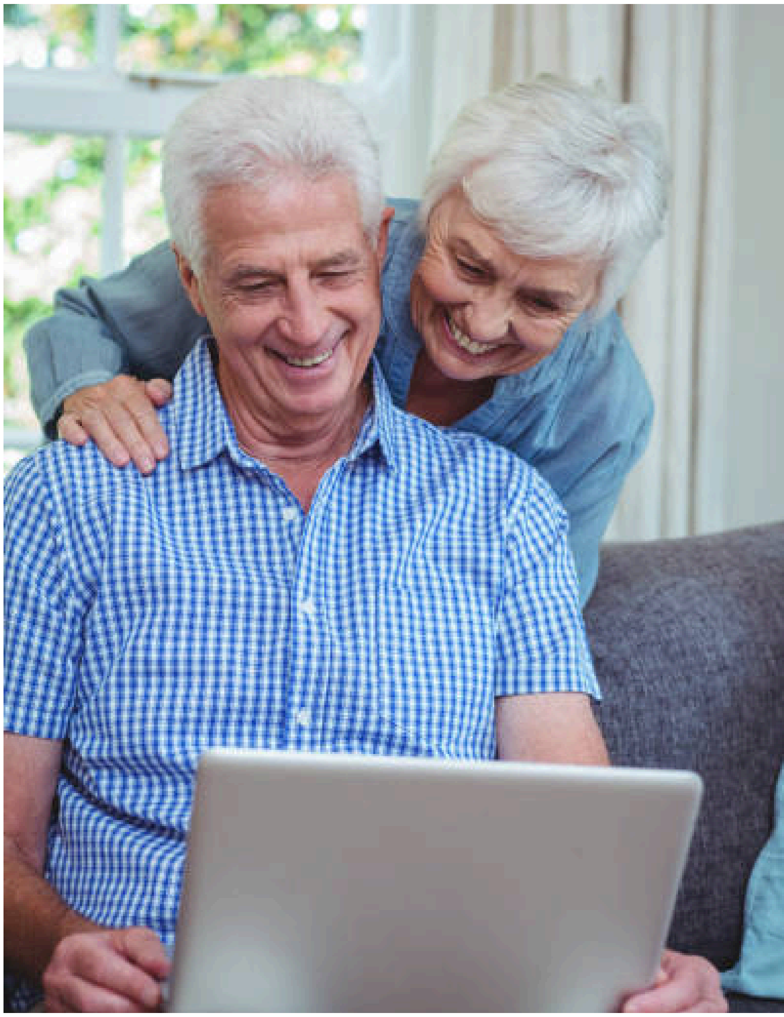
Many people have unused assets like a second car, seasonal property, or old investments. Selling or using them can help cover retirement living costs. It's worth looking beyond income to the full financial picture.

Get Professional Guidance

Understanding your financial options doesn't have to be overwhelming. **Our team includes experienced financial advisors and tax professionals who can help review your situation and guide you toward the best path forward**. Take time to ask questions and explore your options — we're here to support you.

Above all, remember: a safe, supported, and fulfilling retirement is possible. With thoughtful planning, the right support, and a clear financial strategy, you can move forward confidently and truly enjoy the next chapter.

Make Sure You're Legally
Prepared for the Transition



To make sure everything is legally in order, take these steps:

□ ***Find your current Will.*** If you don't have one, it's time to create it. This document explains who should receive your belongings and how your affairs should be handled.

□ ***Check your Power of Attorney documents.*** You should have one for Property (money, home, accounts) and one for Personal Care (health and medical decisions). If they are missing or outdated, update them now.

□ ***Think about an Advance Directive or Living Will.*** This is optional, but it allows you to write down your wishes for medical care in case you can't speak for yourself later.

□ ***Make sure everything is signed and stored safely.*** Originals should be easy to find. Let a trusted person know where they are

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Without a proper Will or Power of Attorney, even your closest family may face legal limits when trying to help you. These documents help ensure that you're always in control of your affairs. Having them in place means your wishes will be followed, and your loved ones won't be left overwhelmed or uncertain when important decisions arise. If you haven't started or are missing anything, we can help. From review to preparation, our team will take care of everything. Call +1 (647) 204-8944.

Big Decision Ahead:
What Happens to the House

If you own a home in Ontario, you'll need to make a decision about what to do with it — whether you plan to sell it, rent it out, or keep it and have someone else take care of it. Once you've made that decision, there are a few important steps to take to ensure everything is handled properly.

Before selling, renting, or transferring a home in Ontario, you'll need key documents to confirm ownership, finances, and property details. Here's what you'll need:

□ ***Parcel Register.*** Confirms legal ownership and any registered mortgages or liens. Available from ServiceOntario.

□ ***Property Tax Bill.*** Shows the most recent annual tax amount and payment status.

□ ***Mortgage or Discharge Statement.*** Shows remaining mortgage balance or confirms it has been paid off.

□ ***Home Insurance Certificate.*** Proof that your home is currently insured.

□ ***Recent Utility Bills.*** Latest bills for hydro, gas, and water services.

□ ***Status Certificate (if applicable).*** Required document for condos, issued by the condo corporation.

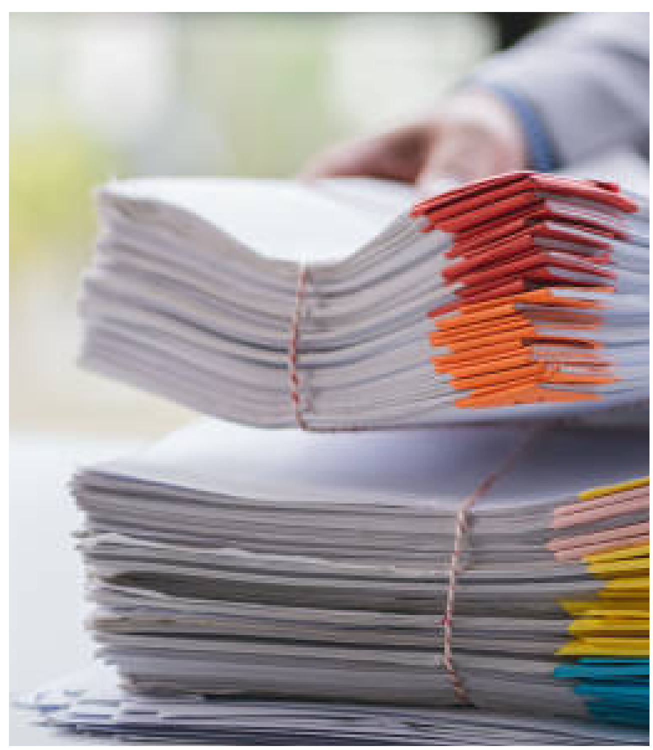
Once you decide what to do with your home, whether to **sell, rent, or keep it,** there are a few important steps to follow. First, gather the necessary documents listed above. If someone is helping you with the process, make sure they have legal authority through a valid Power of Attorney.

Need to sell the House?

With 23+ years of experience, we'll get it sold quickly, professionally, and at the best possible price.

Call +1 (647) 204-8944 to get started.

Each of these steps can be fully managed and coordinated on your behalf. *



A New Chapter Starts Here: Your Downsizing and Move

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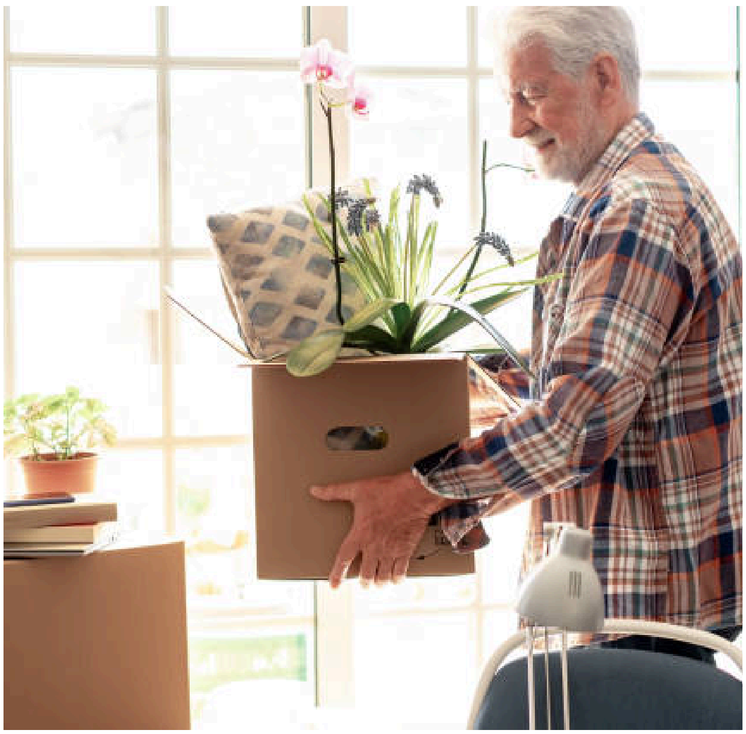
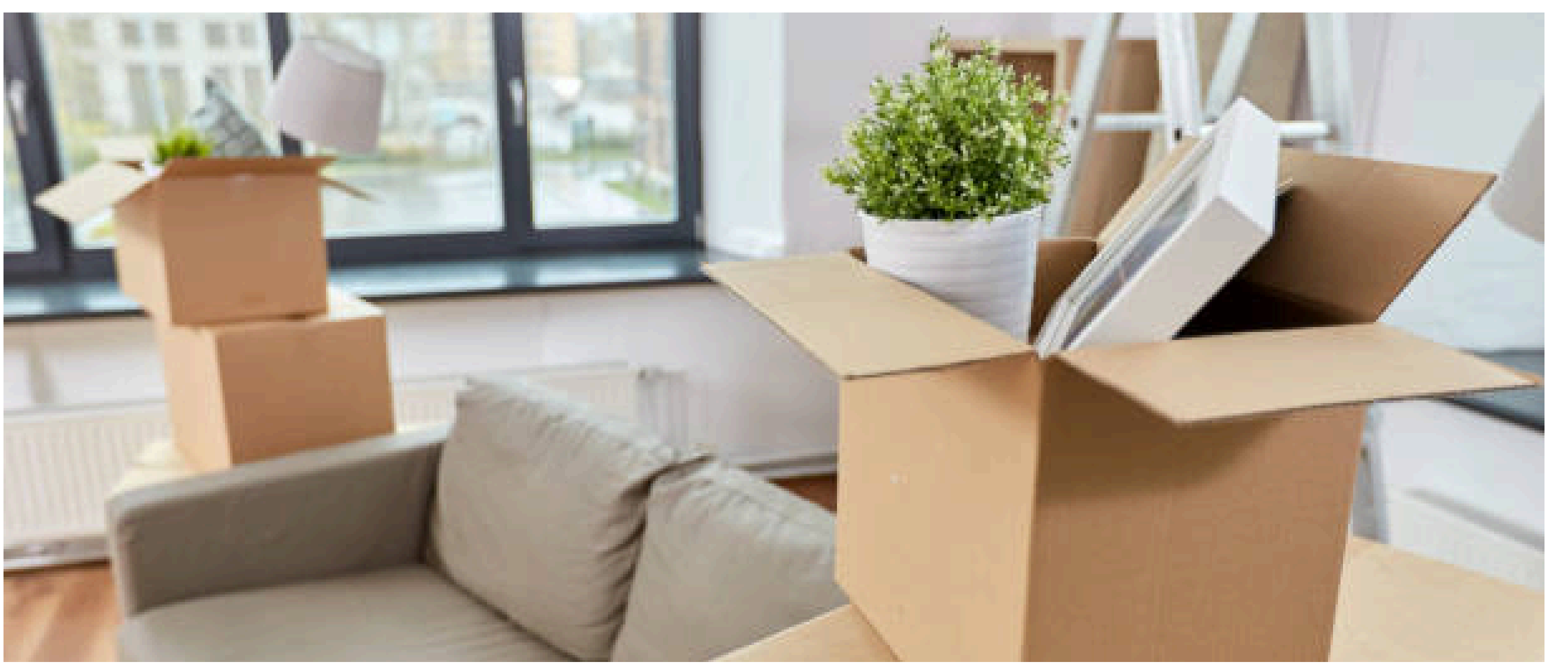
Moving from a long-time home into a retirement residence is a big step, both emotionally and physically. There is often a lifetime of belongings to sort through, decisions to make about what to bring, and the logistics of packing, transporting, and setting up a new space. We are here to take the stress out of that process and ensure everything is handled with care and dignity.



- Inventory of personal possessions
- Packing of essential items for the new residence
- Disposal, donation, or sale of excess items
- Secure storage (if required)
- Physical move coordination with senior-focused moving team
- Setup of furniture, belongings, and comfort items at the retirement residence
- Full property clean-out and restoration (if the home is being sold)

We can help you manage the entire physical transition with care and attention, from sorting and packing your belongings to setting up your new space in a way that feels comfortable and familiar.



One Last Step:
Update Your Details Before the Move

When you move into a retirement residence, one important task often overlooked is making sure your new address is properly updated everywhere it matters. It might seem small, but missing a single step can lead to delayed government benefits, missed bills, or health-related notices not reaching you in time.

To avoid any disruption, you and your family should notify all key organizations and service providers. This includes government agencies like Service Canada (for CPP, OAS, and GIS benefits), and the Canada Revenue Agency (for taxes and refunds). You'll also need to update your banking institutions, insurance providers, and utility companies, including hydro, gas, and water services. Don't forget your phone, internet, and television providers, as well as any subscription or membership services you're signed up for. Taking the time to keep everything current ensures nothing slips through the cracks — and helps your new chapter start off smoothly.

Move-In Timeline:
What to Do and When

If you've already started organizing your documents, reviewing your finances, thinking through what to do with your home, and gathering your health records — you've already come a long way. These are important milestones. To help you move forward without missing anything, we've outlined a week-by-week timeline. It shows what to focus on and when, so you don't feel rushed at the last minute. Use it as a checklist or guide to make sure everything is moving in the right direction calmly, step by step.

Timeframe	Steps to Take
6-8 weeks before	Choose a residence. Begin gathering your legal, medical, and financial documents.
5 weeks before	Let your family know. Finalize your decision about the House. Assign a Power of Attorney if needed.
4 weeks before	Begin downsizing. Get moving quotes and start sorting belongings.
3 weeks before	Finalize your income and funding plan. Review benefit eligibility.
2 weeks before	Clean your home. Confirm what goes with you and update addresses with key organizations.
1 week before	Finish packing. Share your emergency contact plan and confirm all logistics.
Move-in day	Move in and get settled. Welcome the beginning of your new chapter.

Need help along the way?
Our team is here to support you anytime. If any part of the process still feels overwhelming, support is available. From organizing legal and financial documentation to coordinating the move and overseeing the property sale, our team manages each step with clarity and care. Simply provide the necessary paperwork and indicate your preferences. You may remain as involved as you wish, or allow us to handle the details on your behalf.

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