



SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR HOUSEHOLDERS

In preparation for the phone interview, you might refer back to your Householder Self-Assessment notes and the Home Seeker Application that was submitted for your consideration. These should help you formulate any additional questions for the applicant, including clarifications based on her written answers.

Keep in mind that the Home Seeker will have her own questions and the exchange of information should help you both decide if you want to pursue shared housing further with this person.

DESCRIBING THE HOME AND AMENITIES

After introducing yourself, you might initiate the conversation by providing a description of the space and amenities you are offering in your home. This would include:

- the dimensions of the bedroom and whether it furnished or unfurnished
- whether the bathroom will be private or shared
- the parking options available to the Home Seeker who has a car
- willingness to share common rooms, the kitchen, and outdoor area and amenities
- the availability, if applicable, of laundry facilities
- the availability and size of storage space, including space for food storage
- the availability of Internet service or cable service (if provided, is it included in rent or as an additional charge?)

HEALTH AND LEGAL INFORMATION

Are you able to manage all of your activities of daily living? If not, do you have help from a relative or other person? How often would this person visit you?

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? If so, please explain.

DISCUSSING RENT AND UTILITIES COSTS; POTENTIAL FOR RENT REDUCTIONS IN LIEU OF SERVICES

Tell the applicant what you need in terms of rent and utilities. If the applicant has indicated her willingness to offer services (in the Home Seeker Application) you might discuss those potential services and the amount by which you would be willing to reduce the rent in exchange. However, you will want to negotiate the terms of that arrangement and include those details in your Home-Share Agreement.

REGARDING EXCHANGE OF SERVICES FOR REDUCED RENT

If there is going to be a work exchange as part of the home-sharing arrangement, ask the applicant about the following:

- the extent of her willingness to provide services as she indicated on her Home Seeker Application.
- If you would want your housemate to drive you as part of the service exchange, ask to see her license and current insurance card.
- If you are asking for help with cooking, you could specify your food preferences.

ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL HOME-SEEKER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Have you shared housing before (other than with your immediate family)?
- What is your current living situation?
- How long have you lived in the area?
- Where have you lived before?
- What is your work and education experience?
- Will you be spending time away (vacations, weekends away)?
- Are you willing to let me know when you are leaving and when you expect to be back? (I will do the same for you.)
- Do you have your own phone? Do you want internet service and/or cable?
- Would you prefer to share expenses for food and household supplies or purchase separately?