

ASCS Certification Standards

Version 1.0

**American Senior Care Standards
Private Certification Authority**

1. Purpose of Certification

ASCS certification establishes a voluntary framework for senior care organizations to demonstrate compliance with industry standards developed by ASCS Agency. Certification provides:

- Verification of organizational compliance with ASCS-developed standards
- Public registry listing for consumer verification
- Authorization to display ASCS certification marks
- Ongoing monitoring and compliance verification

Important Notice: ASCS is a private, independent certification organization. ASCS is not a government agency, regulator, or licensing authority. ASCS certification does not replace state or federal licensing requirements.

2. Scope

ASCS certification applies to organizations providing senior care services, including but not limited to:

- Home Care Agencies
- Assisted Living Facilities

- Nursing Homes / Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Hospice Care Providers
- Adult Day Care Centers
- Memory Care / Dementia Care Facilities
- Independent Living Communities
- Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs)

Certification is available to organizations operating within the United States that meet eligibility requirements and demonstrate compliance with applicable category standards.

3. Evaluation Domains

ASCS certification evaluates organizations across four primary domains:

3.1 Safety Standards

- Physical facility safety and accessibility
- Emergency preparedness and response protocols
- Infection control procedures
- Medication management systems
- Staff-to-resident ratios

3.2 Ethics & Compliance

- Resident rights protections
- Privacy and confidentiality policies
- Complaint resolution procedures
- Non-discrimination policies
- Transparency in pricing and services

3.3 Transparency Requirements

- Accurate representation of services
- Clear disclosure of fees and charges
- Published policies and procedures
- Accessible complaint mechanisms
- Public accountability measures

3.4 Operational Standards

- Staff credentialing and training
- Quality assurance programs
- Documentation and record-keeping
- Insurance and liability coverage
- Business continuity planning

4. Compliance Scoring Model

ASCS employs a points-based scoring system to evaluate certification applications:

Scoring Categories

Category	Maximum Points
Organization Profile Completeness	20
Required Documentation	40
File Validation	15
Category-Specific Requirements	10
Application Completeness	15
Total	100

Certification Decisions

Score Range	Decision
80-100	PASS - Certification Approved
60-79	CONDITIONAL - Additional Documentation Required
Below 60	FAIL - Certification Denied

Decision Authority

- Scores of 80 or above receive automatic certification approval
- Scores between 60-79 are flagged for administrative review
- Scores below 60 result in automatic denial with explanation
- All decisions may be appealed through formal channels

5. Annual Review Requirement

Certified organizations must maintain ongoing compliance through annual review:

Annual Requirements

- 1. Renewal Application** - Submit updated documentation annually
- 2. Compliance Verification** - Demonstrate continued adherence to standards
- 3. Fee Payment** - Remit annual certification and monitoring fees
- 4. Status Confirmation** - Verify no material changes affecting certification

Monitoring Activities

- Periodic compliance checks (automated and manual)
- Public complaint review and investigation
- Documentation verification requests
- Status updates and registry maintenance

Failure to Renew

Organizations failing to complete annual renewal by the expiration date will have certification status changed to “Expired” in the public registry. Expired certifications may be reinstated through the standard application process.

6. Revocation Authority

ASCS maintains authority to suspend or revoke certification under the following circumstances:

Grounds for Suspension

- Failure to respond to compliance verification requests
- Incomplete or late renewal submission
- Pending investigation of compliance concerns
- Material changes affecting certification eligibility

Grounds for Revocation

- Verified non-compliance with certification standards
- Misrepresentation of certification status or scope
- Fraudulent documentation or false statements
- Failure to maintain required insurance or licensing
- Serious complaints substantiated through investigation

Due Process

- Written notice of suspension or revocation grounds
- Opportunity to respond within 30 days
- Administrative review of contested decisions
- Final decision communicated in writing
- Registry status updated upon final determination

Appeals Process

Organizations may appeal certification decisions through formal written request within 30 days of decision notification. Appeals are reviewed by the Certification Review Panel, and decisions are final.

7. Certification Marks and Usage

Certified organizations receive authorization to display ASCS certification marks subject to usage guidelines:

Authorized Uses

- Display on organization website with verification link
- Inclusion in marketing materials with accurate status
- Physical display at certified locations
- Reference in professional communications

Prohibited Uses

- Display after certification expiration or revocation
- Modification of certification marks
- Misrepresentation of certification scope or status
- Transfer of certification marks to non-certified entities

8. Disclaimers

Private Certification: ASCS certification is issued under private standards developed by ASCS Agency. ASCS is not a government agency, regulator, or licensing authority.

No Quality Guarantee: Certification indicates compliance with ASCS standards at the time of issuance. Certification does not guarantee service quality, safety, or outcomes.

Consumer Due Diligence: Consumers should conduct independent research when selecting care providers. ASCS certification is one factor among many to consider.

Limited Liability: ASCS assumes no liability for actions, omissions, or outcomes related to care delivery by certified organizations.

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