



**SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE TO DETERMINE WHETHER A PATIENT IS HOMELESS  
AS DEFINED IN STATE LAW**

**Note: The hospital is not required to ask these questions verbatim. This document is intended to be a helpful guide, not a required script.**

---

**QUESTION 1:** Do you have a fixed and regular place to stay at night, like an apartment, house, dorm, or nursing facility?

If **YES:** Stop. The person is not considered “homeless.” Document the person’s address if it isn’t already in the medical record.

If **NO,** continue to Question 2.

---

**QUESTION 2:** Where do you usually sleep at night?

If the answer is any of the following, the patient is considered homeless:

- Street, park, under bridge, in doorway, in vacant building
- Car
- Recreational vehicle (RV) or mobile home moved each night or almost each night. (If an RV or mobile home is parked in the same place every night, the patient is not considered homeless.)
- Tent
- Different place every night
- Makeshift cardboard covering
- Shelter (supervised publicly- or privately-operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations)
- Public or private place that is not designed to provide temporary living accommodations or to be used as a sleeping accommodation for human beings

If the answer is any of the following, a judgment call should be made, because the law is not clear:

- Transitional housing
- Sober living center
- Tent encampment
- Friend's couch

For each of the judgment call circumstances listed above (or other answers not listed above), consider how long the patient is allowed to stay in the transitional housing, center, encampment, or couch. The shorter the maximum stay, the more likely the patient should be considered homeless.

When in doubt about whether the patient should be considered homeless under the law, the hospital may wish to treat the patient as homeless according to its homeless patient discharge planning policy, even if he or she might not technically fit within the definition of a homeless patient.