

CHOOSING A CAREGIVER FOR YOUR HOME

Presented by
Kim Tweedel

Most family caregivers reach a point when they realize they need help at home

TELL-TALE SIGNS INCLUDE

- ▣ recognizing that your loved one requires constant supervision and/or
- ▣ assistance with everyday activities, such as bathing and dressing

CAREGIVERS ALSO FIND

- ▣ Certain housekeeping routines and regular errands are accomplished with great difficulty or are left undone.
- ▣ It may become apparent that in order to take care of any business outside the home, more than one caregiver is required.

Assessing Your Home-Care Needs

- ▣ A number of options are available for finding help at home. It is often best to start by assessing both your needs as a caregiver and the needs of the person you are caring for. There are a variety of checklists to help you evaluate what types of help are needed. In general, consider the following areas:

Personal Care:

bathing, eating, dressing,
toileting

Transportation:

help getting to doctors
appointment

Emotional Care:

companionship, meaningful
activities, conversation

Health Care:

medication management,
physician's appointments,
physical therapy

Household Care:

cooking, cleaning,
laundry, shopping

At this point, you have the option of hiring an individual or going through a home care or home health care agency.

Home Care Agency

PROS

- ▣ Screening, hiring/firing, pay and taxes are handled by the agency. If the worker is sick, a substitute can be sent.
- ▣ Long Term care Insurance will pay only to agency not for individual caregivers.

CONS

- ▣ More expensive than privately hiring an individual.

Privately Hired Home Care Worker

PROS

- ▣ A strong one-on-one relationship can develop between the worker and the person receiving care, although this can also happen through an agency when there is a commitment to continuity.
- ▣ Usually less expensive than going through an agency.
- ▣ You get to choose the person you think will be the best to provide care to your loved one.

CONS

- ▣ If the home care worker is sick, no substitute is readily available.
- ▣ Screening, hiring/firing, pay and taxes must be handled by you.
- ▣ May not be covered by or private insurance
- ▣ Will be responsible for unemployment insurance

When going through Agency

- ▣ Make sure they are licensed by The Texas Dept of Aging and Disability
- ▣ They are insured and bonded
- ▣ Have workers Comp insurance
- ▣ Take assignment on Insurance if you have it
- ▣ Train their staff
- ▣ Have a person on 24 hour call
- ▣ Are the caregivers screened carefully do they do the Back ground checks.

Continue

- ▣ Do they have field supervisors who will periodically check on the caregivers will they are with your loved one.
- ▣ Can they give you references of past or present clients.
- ▣ Does the owner or administrator have a background in Health care some agency's don't think this is important.

When Hiring Privately

- ▣ Pay the money for the criminal background check
- ▣ Make sure the references are who they are telling you not some friend of theirs. Ask specific questions how they took care of them or their loved one
- ▣ Ask them what happens if they get sick and they can't come do they have a friend but make sure you do the background and reference checks on the friend.

Beware of

- ▣ CNA's or workers at the nursing home/ Rehabs who offer you their services. It's against the rules at facilities for them to solicit clients but its done regularly
- ▣ Agencies who tell you everything is perfect and nothing will ever go wrong
- ▣ Agencies who tell you medicare pays for caregivers. Medicare does not pay for Caregivers.

Helpful Hints

- ▣ Go with your gut instinct
- ▣ If you feel you have hired a good Agency let them assess the client and then let them pick the caregiver.
- ▣ It's easier to keep the same caregiver if you have a constant schedule. Too many changes is not good for your loved one and it makes for too many changes in caregivers.

Continued

- ▣ Communicate with agency or agency supervisor when changes do have to be made
- ▣ Try to maintain a professional relationship with the caregivers
- ▣ Help keep everyone honest, don't leave mail, money, or jewelry out, put valueables up.
- ▣ Don't loan money to caregivers or pay them directly if using an agency.

If you do put someone in facility

- ▣ Go daily and at different times
- ▣ Consider a sitter at part of the day

Questions?



