

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DOMICILIARY CARE HOMES

Domiciliary Care consumers are adults who need help in certain activities of daily living. For example, elderly consumers often have some degree of physical infirmity and/or a deficiency in their thought process. Consumers dealing with mental health issues may have trouble communicating or knowing how to react to certain situations. Adults with mental retardation may need help with dressing or learning to communicate clearly.

When you take a person into your home, there will be a period of adjustment while you get to know each other. Learn what interests your new consumer has. Try to enhance their strengths and work on their weaknesses. For instance, an adult who feels they are a failure as a housekeeper could learn to help out around the house. Table manners or sensitivity to other people's feelings may have to be worked on. Helping a consumer with issues such as these is called a treatment or a goal plan. The home provider, along with the agency care manager and consumer will discuss and review the treatment plan periodically.

Most consumers have few belongings. However, some may want to bring personal items such as photos, a favorite chair, plants, or a radio. The home provider will be responsible for transporting the consumer to necessary, non-emergency medical appointments. You will be responsible for holding and assisting in the dispensing of medications. Remember to notify the agency Domiciliary Care case manager anytime the consumer is admitted to a hospital.

As the home provider, it is your responsibility to do their laundry, and provide a clean room. A consumer is to receive 3 meals a day. A waiver must be signed if you need to leave a consumer alone for a short time (1-2 hours). This depends on the consumer's ability to be left alone as there are some consumers who may not be left alone. Notify your local agency Domiciliary Care case manager of the name of the person who is to be the substitute caretaker, in advance, and the date if/when you are absent from the home overnight or longer.

Keep first aid supplies handy and make provisions for emergency care such as joining an ambulance association. Consumers pay for their own cloths, personal items, and medical care. Most consumers have Medicaid cards from the County Assistance Office in order to pay for medical care and prescriptions.

If you plan to move or for some reason can no longer care for the consumer, please notify our office in writing 30 calendar days in advance. Time needs to be allotted for finding a new home for the consumer.

Domiciliary Care, in co-operation with other agencies, will be helping you and your consumer adjust to each other and will be available for follow-up services. Of course, the most important part of being a Domiciliary Care provider is your willingness to care for, and about, a person with whom you are sharing your home.