

Hiring A Home Care Worker: Six Tips To Save Aggravation And Avoid Risks

At AgingParents.com, we consult with adult children and spouses of aging loved ones. Most are being cared for at home. We offer a legal, healthcare and mental health perspective to you so you can be a smart consumer and avoid mistakes others make.

1. **Use a licensed home care agency whenever possible.** They are bonded, licensed and responsible for hiring and supervising workers. They likely have more experience and connections to the labor market for helpers than you would on your own.
2. **Ask about the worker's specific experience** for the kinds of healthcare and mental/emotional issues your loved one has. Taking care of someone who had a stroke is very different from caring for a stubborn or difficult elder with cognitive impairment.
3. **Insist on accountability of the worker you hire.** They should keep daily notes for each shift they work, even if there is nothing new. You are entitled to know what they do and what you are paying for.
4. **Pay attention to how well they interact with your loved one.** Difficult elders take patient workers to accomplish the tasks of home care. If it's not a fit, do get a replacement.
5. Hiring a homecare worker does not mean you are free from responsibility. **You still need to stay involved** to ensure that there is consistency, and that any health changes are properly communicated to all involved from supervisor, care coordinator to the workers themselves.
6. **Cheaper does not mean better.** Low salary can mean an unqualified worker or one who is shady and not supervised by anyone. Avoid this, as it could result in danger to your loved one. Be prepared to pay market rates for the area of you want to keep a good worker.

There are many risks associated with bringing a worker into the home of your aging parent. Long stretches of unsupervised time with an elder who is not competent to manage an employee can spell elder abuse, theft, or neglect. To get a full package of advice about how to do the smartest hiring possible, get [Hiring A Home Care Worker: What Could Possibly Go Wrong?](#) You will learn legal requirements for you and for workers, danger signs, and there is a list of questions to ask a home care agency you are considering hiring.

The author, Carolyn Rosenblatt is a retired Registered Nurse, Public Health Nurse, and attorney with decades of experience to help you protect yourself and your aging loved ones.