



Hiring A Caregiver? Protect Yourself And Your Loved Ones

California's most vulnerable population are those who because of advanced age, injury, illness or disabilities, rely on caregivers to provide home care and support services. Caregiving companies provide a wide variety of critical, but non-medical, assistance to improve the quality of life and daily lives of the individuals receiving these services. The new Home Care Services Consumer protection Act provides protection for those families needing home care services.

When the need arises for a caregiver to assist in the home, consumers are often at a loss of how to fill that need. All too often they know someone that can help as a caregiver and won't charge them very much. While it might be appealing to hire a caregiver from an unlicensed home care agency or "private caregiver" in order to save money, consensus tells us there is a substantial difference between the qual-

ity of care provided by a licensed home care agency verses an unlicensed agency or "private caregiver". In an effort to save money, safeguards are neglected. There has been no investment in screening, vetting, training, provision of a criminal background check or insurance.

There are many cases of valuables missing, medications disappearing and caregivers receiving "loans" or stealing money from clients along with faking injuries. Families have choices to make when it comes to home care. Carefully consider the risks and benefits. Protect yourself and your loved ones. Hire through a licensed Home Care Agency that provides certified employees caregivers.

For additional information contact the American Board of Home Care at (877) 436-5259 or visit www.americanboardofhomecare.org