

Red Flags for an Abusive or Potentially Abusive Caregiver

Disability Services ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program)

BEWARE if a caregiver or attendant:

- ☞ Has a past history or reports of abusive behavior, and/or criminal record of physical violence or sexual offenses against partners, people with disabilities, seniors, children or animals;
- ☞ Is unwilling to provide you or a home health agency with a criminal background check or references;
- ☞ Is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while providing you with personal care services;
- ☞ Attempts to control your outside activities;
- ☞ Continually refuses to follow your directions regarding how you need your care provided;
- ☞ Tells you that because he/she works for an outside agency, you are not his/her supervisor and therefore he/she does not have to do what you ask them to do;
- ☞ Uses manipulation and control when you try to assert yourself about your personal needs;
- ☞ Intimidates you physically or emotionally by the way he/she handles your personal needs or by not attending to your personal needs;
- ☞ Treats you and/or your body like an object or without regard or is unnecessarily rough when performing personal care tasks;
- ☞ Continues to treat you in a patronizing way even when you have asked him/her to stop or tries to punish you or control your behavior as if you were a child;
- ☞ Attacks your self-esteem through verbal and/or emotional abuse;
- ☞ Takes away or threatens to take away your adaptive/medical equipment needed for your daily functioning or survival (i.e., respirator, wheelchair, telephone, communication device, walker, TTY or hearing aid, etc.);
- ☞ Does not assist you or threatens to not assist you with medications necessary for your daily functioning or survival;
- ☞ Tries to force you to eat, take medications or vitamins when you do not want to;
- ☞ Does not allow you or threatens not to allow you to see your friends or family;
- ☞ Threatens to report you as an unfit parent because of your disability or denies you access to your children;
- ☞ Does not provide assistance with cooking or eating or leaves you without food for long periods of time;



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Red Flags for an Abusive or Potentially Abusive Caregiver (Continued)

- ✎ Steals money or other personal items with or without your knowledge;
- ✎ Utilizes your home, money, vehicle or other resources with or without your knowledge or consent to meet their personal needs or in commission of illegal activities (i.e., drugs, DWI, prostitution, etc.)
- ✎ Denies you access to your money or financial records or does not allow you to make choices regarding how to spend your money;
- ✎ Leaves or threatens to leave you unattended for long periods of time and without a way to call for help;
- ✎ Tells you that he/she is the only one who loves, cares or accepts you and he/she is the only one who will provide care for you;
- ✎ Touches you or your private body parts in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or when it is not necessary or without your permission;
- ✎ Forces you to have sex, perform or observe sexual acts against your will;
- ✎ Threatens, displays or uses a weapon(s) against you;
- ✎ Threatens to hurt you (or your children, family, service animal, or pets) if you try to leave or tell anyone about the abuse that you are experiencing;
- ✎ Tries to convince others that you are incompetent, stupid or crazy;
- ✎ Tells you no one would listen to you or believe you because of your disability; and/or
- ✎ Threatens to or puts you in a nursing home, other facility, out on the streets or other undesirable living situation against your will.

This document is not intended to be all-inclusive nor does any one quality, or combination of qualities, guarantee that a caregiver/attendant is or will be abusive. This document is intended to be used as a guide and to provide information about characteristics that are **potentially** abusive or lethal.

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