

AB-1217

Home Care Services Consumer Protection Act

Under AB-1217 Non-Medical Private Duty Homecare Services are now licensed by the State of California Department of Social Services.

A Special Note on Registries and Private Hires

Registries will not be licensed by California – this includes newer website and app-based caregiver matching registries. The family/patient is the employer and responsible for all risk and liability.

Private hires not required to be registered with HCSB.



PURPOSE: To promote consumer protection for elderly and disabled individuals who hire private aides to come into their homes and provide assistance with ADL's.

WHO: All non-medical homecare companies throughout California must be licensed as an HCO (home care organization). All caregivers in California must register with the state as approved HCA's (home care aides).

WHEN: Takes effect January 1, 2016

Regulations

- FBI and Department of Justice fingerprinting is now required, compared to 'click of a button' background checks that only go back seven years and can exclude certain counties. The Livescan system gives real-time updates on criminal activity
- Five hours of required caregiver training – at hire and annually
- Must provide proof of bonding, liability, and worker's compensation insurance to CA HCSB
- Unannounced licensing inspection by HCSB will be conducted to verify compliance
- Consumers can look up HCO's on the HCSB website to see if HCO's or caregivers have had any infractions
- A dedicated ethics hotline to file complaints about professional misconduct of companies and Caregivers will be available: (855) 305-7848