

Liability Issues When You Hire Your Caregiver

Use an HCA Caregiver

Hire Your Own

If you hire a caregiver directly as an "independent contractor" to save money, the caregiver is really an "employee." That exposes you to all expenses, liabilities and risks of having an employee.

Caregivers who work the hours you specify, follow your directions, and use your home and equipment (e.g., dishwasher, washer & dryer, vacuum, kitchen and household equipment) are legally your employees – not independent contractors.

If the caregiver is injured on the job (for example, a back injury that won't heal), who is liable?

HCA is Liable

HCA caregivers are covered by Workers Compensation insurance. That is an expense we cover for you.

The caregiver cannot make a claim against you or sue you for medical bills, loss of income, or pain & suffering damages.

Workers Compensation insurance is the caregiver' exclusive remedy for those things, by law.

You are legally Liable

Without Workers Compensation insurance, you are liable for your injured caregiver's damages.

Even if you and the caregiver have an agreement that the caregiver won't sue you, that "agreement" is not legally binding and you are still legally liable for \$10,000's or \$100,000's - even if the injury was not your fault.

That's the truth! Ask a Workers Compensation attorney.

Who has to withhold the caregiver's income taxes (federal and state) and Social Security and Medicare taxes?

HCA is Liable

The caregiver is our employee and we withhold these taxes from the caregiver's paycheck and pay the money to the government.

You are Liable

The caregiver is your employee. You must withhold the taxes from the caregiver's pay and pay it to the government. The IRS and Texas hold you liable.

Even if you and the caregiver have an agreement that you won't be liable, you are still legally liable.

Use a HCA Caregiver (or hire your own?)

When You Look At The Liabilities, Which Choice Really Costs More?