

Becoming a family home provider?

Some things to think about!

Community Living BC is determined to save money by closing down group homes across the province and moving adults with developmental disabilities into other residential settings. Agency managers are encouraging group home staff to provide care for adults with developmental disabilities in their own home or in the home of the person with disabilities.

This model of care may cost government less at the outset, but does it meet the needs of the adult needing support or the caregiver? There are a number of important issues you should consider if you are thinking of sharing your life and home with someone who has developmental disabilities.

Does this job provide what I need in compensation?

Will this job provide the wages, benefits, working conditions and job security that I need? Once the cost of transportation, entertainment, food, clothing and incidentals is deducted what is my hourly wage actually going to be?

Will I get professional support? And the person in care?

If the adult with developmental disabilities develops a complex range of behaviours and other issues – will I receive ongoing professional support to help me solve problems, increase development of life skills, and adjust programming? Is the individual I work with being sufficiently supported financially and with professional services to be reasonably independent and have quality of life?

Will I have complete information?

Some adults with developmental disabilities have a complex range of behaviour and physical problems. What guarantees do I have that the information I receive is comprehensive and complete before someone moves into my home, or I set up house with another adult?

What are my actual hours of work?

Are there any limits that I can set to make sure I have private time for me and my family? Or am I expected to assist with daily programming, toileting, medications, transportation, counselling and support for 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

What is my personal liability?

If the adult requiring support is injured in my house, or while in my company, what is my liability? And if I am injured by the adult in care in my house, or their friends, am I covered by workers' compensation?

more >>>

CommunitySocialServicesMatter.ca

What about Employment Insurance?

Are any contributions made on my behalf that reflect this work?

Will my family or my life and friends take second place?

Who determines the priorities in the household, now that there are programming and other needs to be met? Are the needs of the adult in care always the first priority or am I able to set limits that acknowledge the needs and importance of my family members and myself?

What happens if I am ill or the adult in care is ill?

Will there be respite care available if I am too ill to look after the adult, or if their illness prevents me from meeting other work or family responsibilities?

Will there be respite care available if I need a break?

And if I am sharing living quarters with the adult, must I leave the premises to make space for another respite worker? How do I set limits to make certain I get regular breaks from this work?

How do we resolve conflicts?

What if the adult's family has one view of what is appropriate or necessary, the adult has another, and I, as a caring professional have a different opinion of what is a responsible course of action in the situation? Who mediates the conflict?

What reports and records will I be required to prepare?

What regular paperwork is required and how often must it be submitted? Will my friends or the individual's friends require criminal record checks if visiting?

What if I am accused of abuse?

Is the individual removed and the contract ended during the investigation? If I am sharing accommodation belonging to the individual, am I required to move out?

What if my family status changes?

If I am single when the shared accommodation begins but get married or establish a permanent relationship – is the contract automatically ended?

How much notice is required to end the contract?

Under ordinary circumstances can the individual, the agency or the family immediately end the contract, even if I am now sharing accommodations? How much notice must I give if the placement is not succeeding.

CommunitySocialServicesMatter.ca