

The Division of Public and Behavioral Health is reaching out to the community to ensure they are aware of Nevada's licensure requirements for Personal Care Agencies (PCA) which provide personal care in the home. Consumers who seek to a personal care attendant in the home should research whether the agency is licensed through the state of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 449.0021 defines a PCA as a business as an "agency to provide personal care services in the home" as follows:

1. "Agency to provide personal care services in the home" means any person, other than a natural person, which provides in the home, through its employees or by contractual arrangement with other persons, nonmedical services related to personal care to elderly persons or persons with disabilities to assist those persons with activities of daily living, including, without limitation:

- (a) The elimination of wastes from the body;
- (b) Dressing and undressing;
- (c) Bathing;
- (d) Grooming;
- (e) The preparation and eating of meals;
- (f) Laundry;
- (g) Shopping;
- (h) Cleaning;
- (i) Transportation; and
- (j) Any other minor needs related to the maintenance of personal hygiene.

2. The term does not include:

(a) An independent contractor who provides nonmedical services specified by subsection 1 without the assistance of employees;

(b) An organized group of persons composed of the family or friends of a person needing personal care services that employs or contracts with persons to provide services specified by subsection 1 for the person if:

(1) The organization of the group of persons is set forth in a written document that is made available for review by the Health Division upon request; and

(2) The personal care services are provided to only one person or one family who resides in the same residence; or

(c) An intermediary service organization.

3. As used in this section, "intermediary service organization" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 427A.0291.

NRS 449.220 authorizes the Health Division to bring action in the name of the State to enjoin any person or agency from operating a PCA without first obtaining a license from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

Advice for consumers

When seeking to hire personal care services in the home, consumers should:

- Familiarize themselves with Nevada's requirements for PCA agencies at www.health.nv.gov
- Contact the Division of Division of Public and Behavior Health website at www.health.nv.gov to obtain names of agencies licensed by the state of Nevada. At the website, you can research whether the licensed agency has been the subject of consumer complaints.

Consumers who believe they have hired an agency not licensed by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, or suspect any other form of consumer abuse, can file a complaint with the Division online, or by calling 1-702-486-6515.