

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK A RESPITE CARE PROVIDER

One of the best ways to support your loved one is to take care of yourself, including setting aside time for activities that restore your emotional well-being and taking advantage of respite care opportunities. To ensure that your family member is in safe hands with a respite care provider, ask the following questions when vetting a home care or respite care agency:

1. How are the respite workers selected and trained?
2. Are background checks performed, and are respite workers licensed, insured and bonded?
3. What tasks can a respite worker perform? Can he or she administer medications or assist with personal care needs such as bathing, dressing or using the toilet?
4. Do your respite workers have experience handling _____
Insert your family members special needs?
5. Will the respite provider engage in or offer activities or companion services that your family member requests such as taking a walk to the park, playing cards or providing social stimulation?
6. What hours and days are services available?
7. Is the family member eligible for the services the respite worker will provide?
You should check with your county and state department of aging to see what services your family member qualifies for.
8. What are the fees, and how are they paid to the respite worker?
9. How are emergencies and problems handled by the respite worker?
10. Are references available for the respite worker?

Make sure your loved one has a power of attorney and healthcare directive you can assist them with their financial and health care decisions. If you have any questions, please call Gregory J. Spadea at 610-521-0604.