



License # NR 30211219



**SPRING/SUMMER
2016**

New Licensing Requirements for Caregivers in Palm Beach County



The Board of Commissioners for Palm Beach County recently passed the Home Caregiver Ordinance, which requires certain caregivers such as home health aides and companions to obtain a Home Caregiver License through the County starting in April 2016. Nurses and nursing assistants are exempt since they are licensed through the State. The primary objective of this ordinance is to ensure that all caregivers working in Palm Beach County have completed a Level Two Background Screening.

Even though all caregivers registered with Potter Nursing Service have previously completed a background check, we have to make sure they register with the County in the coming weeks. This process includes submitting a completed application, an affidavit from Potter attesting that a background screening has been successfully completed, and paying an application fee, which ranges from \$20 to \$70. We will be contacting all caregivers impacted by the new ordinance to inform them about their responsibilities and providing them with the necessary paperwork. Applications are accepted at the Consumer Affairs Division in West Palm Beach only on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., so please keep in mind that your caregiver may have to take some time out of his or her day to complete this process.



Benefits of Hiring a Care Manager

Are you overwhelmed with managing the care for your loved one? Potter Nursing Service has relationships with several geriatric care managers who may be able to help you.

Geriatric care managers are professionals who specialize in working with seniors and their families to ensure that they are receiving all of the services they require. Hiring a care manager is often a great option for busy families who are not able to regularly check in on their loved ones. Care managers can act as a liaison between clients and their physicians, healthcare facilities, home care companies and other service providers. Other services they can provide include personal visits, crisis intervention, home safety assessments, help with finding resources to address legal or financial matters, facility placement and assistance with insurance paperwork.

If you are interested in learning more about how a care manager can assist you, a Potter Nursing Service staff member can provide you with some recommendations and contact information.

561-997-9300

www.potternursing.com

877-958-9300

GET READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane Season, which lasts from June 1 through November 30, is almost upon us. Some experts are predicting that this Season will produce more storms than last year as El Niño weakens and atmospheric conditions become more favorable for hurricane formation in the Atlantic Basin. Even during an average year, we can expect 12 or more tropical storms, including 2 or 3 major hurricanes, to form. Since it takes only one storm to cause damage and disrupt our lives, we need to begin preparing now.

If you or a loved one lives in Palm Beach County, we recommend that you visit www.pbcgov.com for emergency management information. You will find locations of various stores and gas stations with generators along with tons of other helpful tips on hurricane preparedness under the “Residents/Emergency Services” heading. We also urge you to check out the Hurricane Guide which covers a plethora of information including evacuation maps, tips on protecting your home, boat and pets as well as post-storm safety.



Martin County residents should visit www.martin.fl.us and type “Disaster Preparedness” in the search bar to find similar resources. If you live in Saint Lucie County, refer to “Living in St. Lucie County/Disaster Preparedness” at www.stlucieco.gov.

One of the most important aspects of hurricane planning is to determine whether or not you will have to evacuate. If you reside in a high-risk area or cannot safely remain in your home due to medical issues, you must have a plan in place now. Each county has Special Needs Shelters for those people who are not suitable for regular shelter placement due to certain medical conditions, but these locations should be used as a last resort since space is very limited. If you think that you may be qualified for one of these shelters, we can provide you with a registration form, which must be completed in advance.

If you are not sure about where to go in the event of an evacuation, Potter Nursing Service can assist you with finding a safe place to stay. Providing that you are willing to accept care from a personal aide referred by us for at least 48 hours, we can arrange for you to be placed in an appropriate facility for the duration of an evacuation. While each facility has different fees and conditions for accepting guests during an emergency, most require that you are accompanied by a caregiver.

All facilities and shelters ask that evacuees arrive prepared with personal needs such as toiletries, a radio, batteries, flashlights, bottled water, clothing, non-perishable foods and medications for at least one week. You should also have a list of your medications as well as a record of your emergency contact numbers, including your doctor’s name and phone number.

With a little thought and preparation now, we can help to make the upcoming hurricane season safer and less worrisome for everyone. Please call us today for more information.



*“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”
--Benjamin Franklin*