Finding the Right Caregiver

***Tip of the Month from Your Health & Wellness Committee***

One of the most difficult things to do is finding a great caregiver. Whether the care giver is for a child, spouse, parent or loved one, it is difficult finding the right person. There is a plethora of agencies and private hire care givers to choose from, so how do you go about finding the right fit for your needs? This article concentrates mainly on caring for an adult over 18 years of age but most of the guidance here is also applicable to children as well.

The state of California started regulating the care giving industry for adults in 2016. If the caregiver is registered with the state it indicates they have passed a Live Scan Background check. If you are hiring a private hire caregiver this is the minimum recommended qualifications, along with great references. In addition to the agencies providing registered caregivers, they are also required to insure all of their caregivers have a clear Tuberculosis test and that they receive at least five hours of training and orientation, with recurrent training annually. The final major requirement from the state is that the agencies carry a bond for their caregivers.

The list of additional things to look for in a caregiver or agency is possibly infinite. However, here at First Light Home Care of South Bay we administer drug tests to all of our caregivers, use scheduling software with telephone clock in/clock out function, to insure proper billing and promise to answer our phone 24/7/365. We have additional services as well, and believe we provide a quality service, great value and peace of mind to our client and their loved ones.

Finding the right caregiver is a daunting task on your own, an agency helps with all the leg work and provides back-up should something happen in the caregiver’s life that precludes them from assisting your loved one. Agencies that have direct hire employees, instead of contract workers add an additional level of security and protection to insure piece of mind.

*Contributed by Larry Roberts, First Light Home Care of South Bay*