

# Compare Your Options for Home Care Help

## 1. Direct Hire

Some families choose to hire a relative, neighbor or friend. Others hire a caregiver or nurse they know or found online or by referral. This arrangement may be informal or it may take a business-like approach with a contract.

The cost may be less, but you'll be responsible for any legal paperwork, payroll tax and other employer requirements. Ask an attorney about potential liability and consider umbrella insurance for liability protection.

## 2. Registry

This builds upon the direct hire concept, but you have access to more candidates. Sometimes called a private duty registry, independent contractor agency or referral agency, they collect the names of caregivers, nurses, physical therapists and others that provide home care services.

They'll share a list of providers you can interview and hire directly. They typically charge a finder's fee; the relationship with the provider is your responsibility. The registry may not do comprehensive background checks or offer training.

## 3. Home Care Agency

This option handles the "business" side of hiring a caregiver, nurse, physical therapist or other provider. The agency is responsible for background checks of care providers (including professional licensing verification), payroll, taxes and many other functions.

Comprehensive agencies provide staff ranging from companion care to complex skilled care\*, which helps ensure that your loved one will receive the right type of care as their needs evolve.

Top-notch agencies provide training that includes skills and insights to help keep your loved one safe at home. The quality of training and expertise varies, so it's important to choose an agency with a strong reputation for superior care and nurse oversight.

*This overview is designed to serve as general information and should not be taken as legal or tax advice.*

*\*Skilled nursing and medical service availability varies by location. Call 866-618-7827 for a full list of services or to schedule a free in-home assessment.*



Our location has been accredited by The Joint Commission — a widely recognized organization that evaluates the nation's best hospitals and other healthcare organizations.



## One Size Doesn't Fit All

There are benefits and drawbacks to all approaches — and every situation is different.

Looking at in-home care from various perspectives will help you feel confident about the choices you make for your family.

BrightStar Care

[brightstarcare.com](https://brightstarcare.com)

866-618-7827

# Home Care Comparisons

This side-by-side-by-side comparison can help you make decisions based on your family’s needs and preferences.

	Direct Hire	Registry	Home Care Agency
Cost	Lower	Relatively low	Moderate
Responsible for background check, payroll, benefits, taxes, etc.	You	Usually you	Agency is responsible
Provides training, supervision, making sure care provider is properly licensed and certified	You	Depends, but generally you	Agency is responsible
Available personnel for back-up coverage	If you arrange for it	Could possibly call another provider	Agency handles
Range of service offerings	Limited	Variety of providers, but not part of a collaborative team	Agency may have providers along the entire continuum of home care (varies by agency)
Schedule flexibility	Varies	Varies	Can usually support variety of short- or long-term needs
Covered by long-term care (LTC) insurance	No	Possibly	Usually

We know this is a big decision. That’s why we’re happy to provide a free, in-home assessment and discuss various options with you and your family.

*NOTE: This chart represents the common characteristics of the three options described above and is not a definitive guide to the types of services offered by various categories of providers.*

Source: Family Caregiver Alliance, [caregiver.org](http://caregiver.org)



**Interested in more information about the differences between home care options?** Scan the QR code or visit [brightstarcare.com/home-care-guide](http://brightstarcare.com/home-care-guide) for additional details and perspectives.