

# ***Comparing Home Care to Alternative Options***

*(Class A-licensed, private-pay)*

## **What is *different* about Home Care compared to Assisted Living or Nursing Homes**

- You don't have to sell your home, downsize, pack, or move.
- The plan of care and/or assistance is personalized to the client's needs, and is provided by consistent caregivers that the client gets to know and trust.
- People often are healthier and happier, and recover faster at home.
- You enjoy the comfort of living at home such as sleeping in your bed, lounging on your couch, using your bathroom for bathing and personal care, eating at your dining room table, etc. You are surrounded by your own pictures, furniture, scents, music, backyard, etc. Groceries, snacks, and meals are what the client wants, prepared how the client wants, when the client wants them.
- You maintain the privacy that comes with being in your own home.
- You live life the way you want rather than following the rules of the facility (quiet hours, when to eat, what is for dinner, time for social activities, type of social activities, time for exercise, what chair is open to sit in, when you get your hair done, when you take a bath, etc.)
- You choose the social outings or activities that you want to partake in and you choose when you want to do them. You can continue doing the things you love to do at home or out in your community. Also, you can continue entertaining your family and friends in your own home. For some people, social life is better at home than in assisted living.
- You have a personal driver to run errands, go on social outings, get to doctor appointments, and more -- on your own schedule, where you want to go. This is typically not available in a care facility.
- Generally, home care caregivers undergo background checks beyond what is required by the state.

## **What is the *same* about Home Care compared to Assisted Living or Nursing Homes**

- The same level of care can be provided (with very few exceptions).
- All have R.N.'s overseeing the care provided. Although, with home care, the amount of personal attention one receives from the R.N. tends to be greater. The reason is that with home care, clients have their own personal R.N. Care Manager.
- All have nursing assistants/home health aides providing the day-to-day care.
- All are licensed and regulated by the Minnesota Department of Health and their survey results are posted on the MN Dept. of Health website.
- All have an R.N. on-call 24-hrs. per day. Nursing homes will likely have an R.N. on-site 24-hrs.

## **The benefits of hiring a professional Home Care company vs. hiring privately**

- Scheduling issues, including sick caregivers, caregiver vacations, etc. are handled by the company.
- Insurance (including Worker's Compensation), liability, and bonding, are handled by the company.
- All payroll deductions, Social Security, etc. are handled by the company.
- The client has an R.N. Care Manager to oversee care, provide consultation, address any problems, liaison with doctors, or arrange for other types of care such as physical therapy, chiropractic care, etc.
- Family can just be family without having to provide care or manage care.
- The MN Dept of Health regulates and audits Home Care agencies and the results are made public.
- All caregivers have passed background and reference checks, as well as skills testing.