

Dom Care...another name for home

WHAT IS DOMICILIARY CARE?

- ✓ Dom Care is a housing program for adults (ages 18 and older)
- ✓ Provides care management for consumers
- ✓ Is under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging; in Philadelphia it is administered by Philadelphia Corporation for Aging.
- ✓ Consumers who meet the criteria are matched with private homeowners and renters throughout the city.
- ✓ Certified Dom Care Providers open their homes to up to two consumers and provide support and encouragement in a **family setting**.

WHO ARE TYPICAL DOM CARE CONSUMERS?

- ✓ Consumers are adults 18 years of age or older who cannot live independently at the current time.
- ✓ Dom Care consumers must be found clinically eligible for the program, which means they have some difficulty performing activities of daily living. Consumers include individuals who have a physical disability, a mental health or intellectual disabilities diagnosis, or are frail.
- ✓ Dom Care consumers must be able to vacate the home in case of emergency with minimal verbal and/or physical assistance.
- ✓ Nearly all Dom Care homes in Philadelphia have second floor bedrooms and/or stairways into the home, and cannot accommodate consumers who cannot safely manage stairs.
- ✓ Most Dom Care consumers are involved in day programs or senior centers, or have jobs in the community.
- ✓ Currently, about half of the Dom Care consumers are over 60 years old.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF DOM CARE PLACEMENT?

- ✓ Consumers get much more than room and board.
- ✓ Housekeeping and laundry services are provided; in addition, consumers get help with personal hygiene and grooming, as needed.
- ✓ If consumers take medicine, the home provider reminds the consumers to take the correct dosage at the right times.
- ✓ Providers ensure that consumers receive three nutritious meals a day.
- ✓ Because of the small setting, Dom Care consumers receive lots of caring, individualized attention.
- ✓ **Dom Care consumers become part of a stable, caring "family"** and can enjoy a sense of belonging and a chance for independence that a real home can provide.

- ✓ Dom Care consumers who are SSI eligible are also eligible for a state supplement, which guarantees a personal needs allowance (currently the amount is \$172.30 per month).
- ✓ Consumers choose which home to live in, as well as the option of a private or shared room.
- ✓ A PCA care manager stays involved with the consumer and provider for as long as the consumer lives in that home.

WHO ARE TYPICAL DOM CARE PROVIDERS?

- ✓ Nurturing individuals who are willing to provide encouragement, care and support.
- ✓ Many are older women who are not employed outside the home, who have been caregivers in the past.
- ✓ All Dom Care Providers must go through a **certification process** and are required to attend periodic training sessions coordinated by PCA.
- ✓ Dom Care homes must meet standards established by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging
- ✓ Homes are inspected prior to certification, and **providers must have criminal history clearances and satisfactory financial, personal and medical references.**
- ✓ Providers are required to have sufficient financial resources to meet household expenses without depending upon a consumer's monthly payment.
- ✓ Homes are recertified annually to determine that providers and homes are still in compliance with the Dom Care regulations and to evaluate the providers' performance and continued ability to provide care.
- ✓ Providers cannot accept relatives as consumers.
- ✓ The monthly Dom Care rate (which is received when a consumer is actually placed in the home) is determined each year by the Commonwealth; the current rate is \$936.00 per month.

HOW ARE CONSUMERS REFERRED?

- ✓ All Dom Care applicants must be clinically assessed through PCA's Long Term Care Access department (LTCA). Referrals can be made by telephone through the LTCA intake number, **215-765-9040**.
- ✓ Care managers work to match eligible consumers with providers, according to the individual needs and preferences of both the consumer and provider.
- ✓ Consumers and providers are given an opportunity to meet one another before a trial visit is arranged, and **both parties must be satisfied** with the arrangement before a final placement is made.
- ✓ Generally, the process takes about 6-10 weeks from receipt of the LTCA assessment to placement.

To refer a CONSUMER, call: 215-765-9040
To apply to become a PROVIDER, call: 215-765-9000 Extension 4437

Basic requirements needed for home certification

This is a list of the items that would be required, in addition to several home inspections, in order for you to meet the Dom Care Provider requirements.

- **Two (2) personal references (no family members)**
- **Physician's reference (including a TB test or chest x-ray completed within 6 months of your application)**
- **Two (2) positive financial references (i.e., mortgage, PGW, PECO)**
- **Copies of recent utility bills (to ensure that there is no possibility of utility cut off)**
- **A copy of your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy**
- **A copy of your deed (if you own your home), or a mortgage statement**
- **Real estate tax receipt for current year (if you own your home)**
- **Approval from your landlord (if you rent)**
- **Criminal history clearance (this paperwork will be done by PCA staff)**
- **If you have radiators, all radiators must be fully covered**
- **There must be railings or handrails on all outside and inside stairways**
- **Furnished bedroom (cannot be above the 2nd floor)**
- **A back-up person must be identified; that person will need personal and medical references (as listed above); before certification, this person will also have to meet with the Resource Developer**
- **CPR and First Aid certification***
- **Proof of income (to ensure that monthly household expenses can be met)**
- **Menus (forms will be provided)**
- ***CPR and First Aid certification must be maintained at ALL times while a provider participates in the Dom Care program.**
- **In addition, all providers must attend at least three (3) training sessions each year (not including CPR and/or First Aid)**

Questions most frequently asked by Dom Care Provider Applicants

1. Question

Fire extinguishers are expensive. Do I need one on every floor?

Answer: Yes

ABC Fire extinguishers on every floor are necessary to provide easy accessibility in case of fire. The expense of providing extinguishers is low in comparison to the possible injury and damage which can occur if they are not available. Your Dom Care care manager can recommend stores where you can purchase quality extinguishers at reasonable prices.

2. Question

May a smoke detector take the place of a fire extinguisher?

Answer: No

Both smoke detectors and extinguishers are required.

3. Question

Why do I have to be accountable for the monies I receive for room and board and for the monies received by the consumer after room and board is taken out?

Answer:

Whenever you purchase an item from the store, you are entitled to a receipt. In like manner, a Dom Care consumer is purchasing room and board in your home and your services as a provider. Therefore, an account of monies you receive for this purpose should be given. In addition, a written record of the consumer's expenses should be assessable in cases of Provider/ Consumer disputes over what the consumer is entitled to.

4. Question

Is there an age requirement for providers?

Answer:

All providers must be 21 years of age.

5. Question

What is the fee paid to providers for the care of a resident(s) placed in their home?

Answer:

The current rate is \$936.00 per month per resident. These rates change annually and your care manager will inform you when the rates change.

6. Question

What does the payment you receive from the resident per month cover?

Answer:

Room, board and the personal services you are expected to provide to the resident.

7. Question

Who pays for the resident's medical bills?

Answer:

Most Dom Care residents have Medicaid coverage which pays for all medical needs except hearing aides and eyeglasses. You may call your care manager for assistance in obtaining the last two items if and when they are needed.

8. Question

Do I have to pay for the resident's clothing?

Answer:

You are not required to pay for the resident's clothing, but you may want to supplement his/her financial ability to purchase a necessity if he/she cannot afford it. The Dom Care care manager can recommend places where clothing can be obtained reasonably. You are expected, however, to help the resident dress appropriately at all times.

9. Question

Why do I have to have covers on my radiators?

Answer:

To protect consumers who accidentally fall against them from being burned. Your care manager can suggest inexpensive ways to cover your radiators.

10. Question

Do I have to keep a menu?

Answer: Yes

You are required to plan weekly menus and to keep them on file for at least four (4) weeks. If there is an unexpected problem with the resident's health; with regard to his/her nutrition, it can be traced through the menus and corrected.

11. Question

What kind of people would you place in my home?

Answer:

While all of our consumers have some sort of disability, we will only place consumers with whom you feel comfortable into your home.

12. Question

Will I have the opportunity to meet the resident before placement?

Answer: Yes

Both you and the resident will spend time together in your home before either of you decide you are comfortable with one another.

13. Question

Why are there so many requirements?

Answer:

To assure the best possible living arrangement and quality of care for residents requiring placement in a private home.