

How to Choose a Respite Provider

Some states require licensing for respite providers. If your state does not, it is even more important to do a thorough background and qualifications check, especially if you are dealing with individuals who are not associated with companies or agencies. Most company and agency providers will have done background and reference checks for their employees, but do not assume, ask instead. Here is a quick checklist to use when considering a provider:

1. Telephone screening and interview
2. Ask for references
3. Check references, criminal background
4. Personal interview
5. Evaluate costs and financing
6. Write a contract that provides specific details

The idea is to get to know the prospective provider as well as possible before committing to the relationship. Then, you must communicate your expectations in very specific terms. Finally, these expectations should be in writing to help assure that both parties understand them, and won't need to rely on memory if and when difficulties arise later. For more information, follow these links:

[Finding and Keeping Good Respite](http://www.alabamarespite.org/caregivers.htm) (<http://www.alabamarespite.org/caregivers.htm>)

This information is used with permission from ARCH National Coalition ([http://www.arch.memberlodge.org/.](http://www.arch.memberlodge.org/))