

Ethics of the Professional Caregiver

As a professional caregiver, you are responsible for:

- **Recognizing a consumer as an individual**
 - Find out and follow a consumer's likes and dislikes.
 - Ask how the consumer wants things done.
 - Get to know and follow a consumer's routines.
 - Become aware of a consumer's cultural preferences.
- **Promoting a consumer's independence**
 - Be knowledgeable and respectful of the consumer's rights.
 - Promote and work with the consumer to ensure highest level of functioning.
 - Encourage consumer's choice.
 - Ensure consumer participation in all care decisions.
 - Maintain a consumer's privacy and dignity.
- **Providing mindful caregiving**
 - Balance the skill and art of caregiving by following the consumer's authorized service plan (Notice of Action).
 - Observe the consumer closely, watching for changes in mental, emotional, and physical behavior.
 - Report changes with care and accuracy to team members (social worker, family members, and doctors) as necessary.
- **Professional caregiver conduct**
 - Be reliable and considerate of the consumer.
 - Cooperate with team members.
 - Be effective and efficient with time and supplies.
 - Follow procedures.
 - Wear clothing that is appropriate, neat, and clean.
 - Leave personal problems at home.
 - Do not borrow or ask for a financial loan.
 - Do not ask for the consumer's medication or offer your own medication to the consumer.

Adapted with permission from *Caregiver Handbook: Caregiver Responsibilities*, Sacramento County IHSS Public Authority, retrieved from www.pubauth.saccounty.net, October 2013.