

Napa County Caregiver Permit Program -- Top 12 Questions and Answers

1. Do I need a permit?

If you are providing care for compensation (any form of payment including free room and board) in exchange for caregiving, you must obtain a permit.

2. Are there exceptions to the rules?

No permit is required for those licensed through the State, such as RNs, LVNs, Licensed Therapists (LPT, OTR), Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), Registered Home Care Aides, and other similar designations that require fingerprinting. Services provided through In-Home Support Services (IHSS) are excluded too.

3. Do employees of caregiver agencies have permits?

Employees of licensed Home Care Organizations will be registered with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and are not required to have a Napa County Permit. Independent contractors affiliated with caregiver placement agencies will be required to obtain a Napa County Caregiver Permit, unless they have voluntarily registered with CDSS.

4. Are family members included?

Family members need to obtain a permit only if they are receiving some sort of compensation in exchange for providing care (including free room and board).

5. How much does it cost?

The background fee, paid to the Area Agency on Aging, is \$90 for the 1st year, \$79 for the 2nd year and \$67 thereafter. The permit is \$20 annually, paid to the Napa County Clerk/Recorder.

6. Where do I apply?

The Area Agency on Aging is the starting point for applying. You may visit them in person at 1443 Main St., Suite 125, Napa, CA, visit them at www.aaans.org, or call them at (707) 644-6612. In addition to the application form, you will need to sign the Authorization for Background Check and provide proof that you are free of tuberculosis.

7. Where can I get the TB test?

You can check with your regular healthcare provider, and Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST) is available at the Napa County Public Health Clinic, 2344 Old Sonoma Rd. in Napa. You must call for an appointment (707) 253-4270, and return for clearance 48-72 hours after the skin test. The fee is \$25.

8. Why do we need this?

You should know who is going to be in your loved ones home giving them care. They will have access to personal and financial information and can exert a great deal of influence.

9. What if I want someone who doesn't pass the background?

If a caregiver cannot pass the background, a limited caregiver permit may be obtained. The limited caregiver permit is only good for one person/household and requires the person paying for care to sign a notarized statement accepting liability.

10. Do I have to apply in person?

You do not need to apply in person for the background process; once you've been cleared you will need to appear in person within 20 days, at the Napa County Clerk/Recorder's Office at 900 Coombs St., Room 116, with two ID-type photos (1 ½ " tall, 1" wide), \$20, and a photo ID.

11. How long does it take to get a permit?

After you have submitted the application documents and payment, you should allow 1-4 weeks for the background check. Also allow 4-10 days to schedule the TST.

12. What do I do if someone I know needs one and doesn't have one?

Please help us educate the public about the permit system – we have brochures and posters that might help you. Ask to see a caregiver's permit and check to see if it is valid by going online to www.napacaregivers.org and entering the caregiver's Permit Number. If you have trouble going online, call the Area Agency on Aging at (707) 644-6612.