

# Minnesota

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**Licensure Term** Comprehensive Home Care provider in a Registered Housing with Services establishment

**Opening Statement** Minnesota does not license assisted living as a distinct category. Assisted living is a definition requiring a Housing with Services registration and a comprehensive home care license. Alternatively, a provider that has a housing with services registration may contract with a separate, arranged home care agency that has a comprehensive home care license. Housing with Services establishments can also have a basic home care license to provide non-medical services, however, this license would not meet the definition of assisted living.

In 1995, the legislature separated housing from services, requiring an establishment to provide health-related services through a licensed home care agency. Minnesota then created a registration category called Housing with Services that applies to establishments that provide sleeping accommodations to adult residents and one or more health-related services or two or more supportive services. In 2006, the legislature passed a bill that provides title protection for the use of the phrase "assisted living."

**Legislative and Regulatory Update** Minnesota recently passed legislation that adds new items that must be included in the Housing with Services contract; the new requirements are intended to ensure compliance with the Home and Community-based Services Setting Rule.

In 2015, there were new requirements for dementia training, Housing with Services Manager training, and emergency planning. Minnesota also recently consolidated several classes of home care agency licenses into the comprehensive and basic home care licenses.

**Definition** Use of the phrase "assisted living" is restricted to registered Housing with Services establishments that meet specific requirements which

include, but are not limited to: offering or providing staff access to an on-call registered nurse (RN); a system to check on each assisted living client daily; a means for assisted living clients to request assistance; staff to respond to health or safety needs 24 hours a day, seven days a week; two meals per day; weekly housekeeping and laundry; health services including assistance with self-administered medication or medication administration; assistance with at least three activities of daily living (ADLs); and health-related services from a Minnesota-licensed home care agency.

Assisted living means a service or package of services advertised, marketed, or otherwise described, offered, or promoted using the phrase "assisted living" either alone or in combination with other words, whether orally or in writing.

Housing with Services establishments provide sleeping accommodations to one or more adult residents. These facilities offer or provide, for a fee, one or more regularly scheduled health-related services or two or more regularly scheduled supportive services.

Supportive services means help with personal laundry, handling or assisting with personal funds of residents, or arranging for medical services, health-related services, social services, or transportation to medical or social services appointments. Arranging for services does not include making referrals, assisting a resident in contacting a service provider of the resident's choice, or contacting a service provider in an emergency.

### **Disclosure Items**

The state specifies information that must be included in a Housing with Services contract and provided to the resident. In addition, a separate Uniform Consumer Information Guide, which includes information about services offered by the provider, service costs, and other relevant provider-specific information, must be made available to all current and prospective clients in the required format. (See Alzheimer's Unit Requirements for additional disclosure requirements specific to dementia care.)

### **Facility Scope of Care**

Home care services that may be provided with a comprehensive home care license include, but are not limited to, assistance with ADLs and instrumental activities of daily living, cuing, services of an RN, medication management services, hands-on assistance with transfers and mobility, and assistance with eating. A person or entity offering assisted living may define the scope of available services. Home care providers are required to provide a "Statement of Home Care Services" that outlines what services they will and will not

provide under their license.

**Third Party Scope of Care**

The establishment must have an arrangement with a comprehensive home care licensed provider or use its own licensed home care agency. Requirements do not specify whether establishments may contract with other types of providers. Tenants of a registered Housing with Services establishment have the right to bring in their own home care services.

**Admission and Retention Policy**

A person or entity offering assisted living may determine which services it will provide and may offer assisted living to all or only some of the residents of a housing with services establishment. Housing with services establishments and home care providers are not required to offer or continue to provide services under a service agreement or service plan to prospective or current residents if they determine that they cannot meet their needs.

The federal Fair Housing Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Minnesota Landlord-Tenant Law, and the Minnesota Human Rights Act apply to persons applying to lease a unit in a registered Housing with Services establishment.

Health care services may be terminated without impacting the resident's housing status. Thirty day notice, with certain exceptions, must be given to terminate health care services and assistance must be offered in finding another health care provider. Housing may be separately terminated if the conditions of the lease are violated.

**Resident Assessment**

Assessments by an RN must be offered prior to move in or upon executing a contract. Initial assessments must be conducted by an RN within five days after initiation of home care services. Client monitoring and reassessment must be conducted in the client's home within 14 days after initiation of home care services. Ongoing monitoring assessments must occur every 90 days or as needed based on the needs of the client and may be conducted by RNs and licensed practical nurses on an alternating basis. Initial assessments for medication management must be conducted by an RN face-to-face with the client prior to the implementation of medication management services.

**Medication Management**

For comprehensive home care providers, medications may be administered either by a nurse, physician, or other licensed health practitioner authorized to administer medications, or by unlicensed personnel who have been delegated medication administration tasks by an RN and successfully completed relevant medication management competency testing. At a minimum, an establishment representing itself as assisted living must offer to provide or arrange

for assistance with self-administration of medications or administration of medications. Home care licensure statutes and rules must be followed. Initial assessments for medication management must be conducted by a RN face-to-face with the client prior to the implementation of medication management services.

**Square Feet Requirements** Establishments must comply with state and local building codes. The state does not specify minimum square foot requirements for private rooms.

**Residents Allowed Per Room** Units may be shared by resident choice. The state does not specify the maximum number of residents allowed per bedroom.

**Bathroom Requirements** The state does not specify whether establishments must provide private bathrooms to each resident or provide bathrooms for specific resident ratios.

**Life Safety** In Minnesota, assisted living is provided in a registered Housing with Services establishment. A Housing with Services establishment must comply with the state building code and the Minnesota Uniform Fire Code and applicable local building codes and requirements for the type of structure utilized for the housing component of assisted living. The Minnesota State Fire Code is comprised of the International Fire Code plus Minnesota amendments. In Minnesota, a Housing with Services establishment is registered with the Minnesota Department of Health. This registration has no requirements regarding the physical plant of the establishment. Requirements in the NFPA Life Safety Code do not apply to Minnesota's Housing with Services establishments.

**Unit and Staffing Requirements for Serving Persons with Dementia** Housing with Services establishments that secure, segregate, or provide a special program or special unit for residents with a diagnosis of probable Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder or that advertise, market, or otherwise promote the establishment as providing specialized care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder are considered "special care units." All special care units must provide a written disclosure to the following:

- (1) The commissioner of health, if requested;
- (2) The Office of Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans; and
- (3) Each person seeking placement within a residence or the person's authorized representative, before an agreement to provide care is entered into.

Written disclosure must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (1) A statement of the overall philosophy and how it reflects the special needs of residents with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias;
- (2) The criteria for determining who may reside in the special care unit;
- (3) The process used for assessment and establishment of the service plan or agreement, including how the plan is responsive to changes in the resident's condition;
- (4) Staffing credentials, job descriptions, and staff duties and availability, including any training specific to dementia;
- (5) Physical environment as well as design and security features that specifically address the needs of residents with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias;
- (6) Frequency and type of programs and activities for residents of the special care unit;
- (7) Involvement of families in resident care and availability of family support programs;
- (8) Fee schedules for additional services to the residents of the special care unit; and
- (9) A statement that residents will be given written notice 30 days prior to changes in the fee schedule.

Supervisors and direct care staff must be trained in dementia care. Supervisors must have at least eight hours of initial training within 120 working hours of the employment start date and two hours of annual continuing education. Direct-care employees must have eight hours of initial training and staff who do not provide direct care must have at least four hours of initial training both within 160 working hours of the employment start date, and two hours of annual continuing education. Areas of required training include:

- 1) An explanation of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders;
- 2) Assistance with ADLs;
- 3) Problem solving with challenging behaviors; and

4) Communication skills.

The licensee must provide to consumers a written or electronic description of the training program, the categories of employees trained, the frequency of training, and the basic topics covered.

**Staffing Requirements**

In order to use the term assisted living, Housing with Services establishments are required to have a person available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, who is responsible for responding to the requests of assisted living clients for assistance with health or safety needs, unless they meet the criteria for exemption for awake-staff described in MN Statute 144G.03 Subdivision 3. In addition, the licensed home care agency providing the health care services must provide all services agreed to in the client's signed service plan. There are no mandated staffing ratios.

**Administrator  
Education/Training**

The manager must obtain at least 30 hours of continuing education every two years of employment.

**Staff Education/Training**

All persons who have contact with clients must complete an orientation to home care, which includes an overview of the home care statutes and rules as well as handling emergencies, reporting maltreatment, the home care bill of rights, handling client complaints, and the services of the ombudsman for older Minnesotans. Unlicensed personnel who perform delegated nursing services must successfully complete the core training described in MN Rule 4668 and pass relevant competency evaluations for delegated services.

Unlicensed personnel must complete at least eight hours of in-service training in topics relevant to the provision of home care services during each 12 months of employment. Included in the required eight hours of annual training must be education related to: (1) infection control, (2) Minnesota Vulnerable Adult Act and required reporting responsibilities, (3) Home Care Bill of Rights, and (4) a review of the home care provider's policies and procedures.

**Entity Approving  
CE Program**

None specified.

**Medicaid Policy and  
Reimbursement**

Three 1915(c) Medicaid home and community-based waivers (elderly, traumatic brain injury, and community alternatives for disabled adults) pay for customized living services in assisted living and Housing with Services establishments.

**Citations**

Minnesota Statutes. Chapter 144A: Home Care  
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=144A>

Minnesota Statutes. Chapter 144D: Housing with Services

Establishment

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=144D>

Minnesota Statutes. Chapter 144G: Assisted Living Services

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=144G>

Minnesota Statutes. Chapter 325F.72: Disclosure of Special Care

Status. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=325F.72>

Minnesota Department of Human Services Community-Based  
Services

Manual [http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DY\\_NAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&DocName=id\\_000402](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DY_NAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&DocName=id_000402)