

From the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Homemaker Companion Services employ individuals to do housekeeping, cook, run errands, and provide companionship to the elderly and adults with disabilities. They cannot provide any personal care or nursing according to state law.

“Companion” or “sitter” means a person who spends time with or cares for an elderly, handicapped, or convalescent individual and accompanies such individual on trips and outings and may prepare and serve meals to such individual. A companion may not provide hands-on personal care to a client.

59A-8.0095(12) (b) The companion shall:

1. Provide companionship for the patient;
2. Provide escort service such as accompanying the patient to doctors appointments;
3. Provide light housekeeping tasks such as preparation of a meal or laundering the patient's personal garments;
4. Perform casual, cosmetic assistance, such as brushing the client 's hair and assisting with make-up, filing and polishing nails but not clipping nails;
5. Stabilize the client when walking, as needed, by holding the client's arm or hand;
6. Maintain a chronological written record of services; and
7. Report any unusual incidents or changes in the patient 's behavior to the case manager.

59A-8.0095(12) (a) The homemaker shall:

1. Maintain the home in an optimum state of cleanliness and safety depending upon the patient's and the caregiver's resources;
2. Perform the functions generally undertaken by the customary homemaker, including such duties as preparation of meals, laundry, shopping and care of children;
3. Perform casual, cosmetic assistance, such as brushing the client's hair and assisting with make-up, filing and polishing nails but not clipping nails;
4. Stabilize the client when walking, as needed, by holding the client's arm or hand;
5. Report to the appropriate supervisor any incidents or problems related to his work or to the caregiver;
6. Report any unusual incidents or changes in the patient's behavior to the case manager; and
7. Maintain appropriate work records.
8. Personal care cannot be provided.

Following is the definition of "personal care" from state law:

400.462(24), F.S. " "Personal care" means assistance to a patient in the activities of daily living, such as dressing, bathing, eating, or personal hygiene, and assistance in physical transfer, ambulation, and in administering medications as permitted by rule.