

# You Are the Employer:

A Guide to Hiring and Managing Personal Assistant Services



# YOU ARE THE EMPLOYER A GUIDE TO HIRING AND MANAGING PERSONAL ASSISTANT SERVICES

Hiring personal assistants may seem overwhelming. It does not have to be!

This guide was developed to provide you with the skills and resources you need to hire and manage your personal assistants.

Module 1: Identifying Your Needs and Wants

Module 2: Hiring a Personal Assistant

Module 3: Tax Considerations

Module 4: Employer Responsibilities

Module 5: Stress Management

Module 6: Communication Skills

Module 7: Additional Resources

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Therese Nadeau	Christine Gaynor	Andrew Bate	Armand Legault	Carrie Kramer	
Patti Clay	Amy Carlander	Cathy Ludlum	Maggie Boyce	Mickey Verno	

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This guide can be made available in alternate formats upon request. Address specific requests to: the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at 1.860.679.1500 (v) or 860.679.1502 (TTY)

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## **SECTION 1:**

#### INTRODUCTION

This module will provide you with some additional resources and organizations that can assist you with the various areas in hiring and managing personal assistants. As you learned throughout this guide, hiring and managing personal assistants can be complex. The more information and experience you gain the less complex the process becomes over time. It's also helpful to talk with others who have similar experiences to hiring and managing their own personal assistants. You will be surprised to know that many other employers have struggled with issues similar to yours; over time they were able to develop an approach that worked for them. Don't feel like you need to know everything in this guide overnight. Determine what is important to your individual needs, and take one step at a time.



### **SECTION 2:**

#### **RESOURCES FOR HIRING A PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

#### READING MATERIALS



Alfred DeGraff March 2002 Order information: Saratoga Access F P.O. Box 1427, Fo

Saratoga Access Publications, P.O. Box 1427, Fort Collins, CO 80522 Phone: (800) 474-4010 or (970) 484-4010

Cost: \$24.95



# The relationship of self-esteem to attitudes of personal attendants toward persons with disabilities.

Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling G. Garske 1996



#### Enabling Independence: A Personal Attendant Training Manual

Kristofer Hagglund Order information: Services for Independent Living, 1401 Hathman Place, Columbia, MO 65201 Phone: (573) 874-4121 Website: http://www.muhealth.org/~momscis/manual.shtml

Cost: \$25.00 or free download online

Personal assistance services. New Mobility, M. Hamm June 1999

#### Personal Assistance Services Guide: A Guide for Hiring, Management and Conflict Resolution

Marilyn Hammond and Marie Goodey,

Order information: Outreach Division, Center for Persons with Disabilities, 6845 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322 Phone: (435)797-2044

Cost: \$14.95

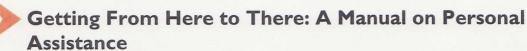


Home Care Worker Handbook for Independent Providers of IHSS in SF, by San Francisco In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Order information:

Website: http://www.sfihsspa.org

Cost: \$20.00



Phone: (415) 243-4477

Cathy Ludlum, Order information:

University of Connecticut Center on Disabilities,
263 Farmington Avenue MC 6222, Farmington, CT 06030
Phone: (860) 679-1500

Cost: \$10.00

AVOIDING Attendants from HELL: A Practical Guide to Finding, Hiring and Keeping Personal Care Attendants June Price

2002 Order information:

Science & Humanities Press, P.O. Box 7151, Chesterfield, MO 63006 Phone: (314) 394-4950 E-mail: publisher@sciencehumanitiespress.com

Cost: \$16.95



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#### **Recruiting a Personal Assistant**

Disability Gateshead Order information: Website:

http://www.disabilitygateshead.org.uk/recruit/recruit.htm

Taking Charge: A Hands-on Guide to Personal Assistance Services, by the Ohio Personal Assistance Services Coalition

Order information: Ohio Personal Assistance Services Coalition, c/o Ohio Developmental Disabilities Alliance, 197 East Broad Street, First Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215

#### AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS



# HeartWork: A Video Celebrating the Lives and Work of Direct-Care Workers

Order information: National Clearinghouse on the Direct Care Workforce 349 E. 149th St., Bronx, NY 10451 Phone :(718) 402-4138 Email: info@directcareclearinghouse.org Website: http://www.directcareclearinghouse.org

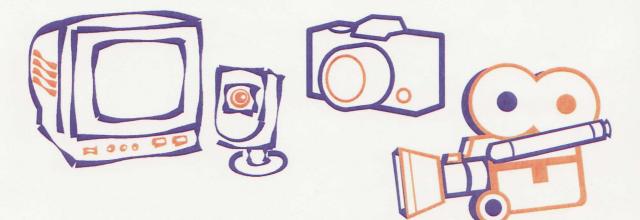
# Consumer Direction in Personal Assistance Services: How to Work Together

Publisher: Program Development Associates

Order information: PAS Center for Personal Assistance [CD Rom & Video] Website: http://www.disabilitytraining.com/pacs.html

#### Attendant Manager 2.0 software

Order information: http://www.disabilitysoft.com Cost: Free version to try for 45 days, then \$69.00 registration fee



## **SECTION 3:**

#### **RESOURCES FOR STRESS MANAGEMENT**

### BOOKS, WEBSITES AND OTHER

# The American Institute of Stress

Website: http://www.stress.org/



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#### Stress Busters – Thoughts To Reduce Your Work Stress! Shirley Babior

Center for Anxiety and Stress Treatment / Stress Release Health Enterprises. Contact Information: 4225 Executive Square, Suite 1110, La Jolla, CA 92037 Website: http://www.stressrelease.com/strssbus.html

#### Stress The Silent Killer

Holistic Online Website: http://www.holisticonline.com/stress/stress\_home.htm

#### Mind Tools Resources

James Manktelow and Graham Tarrant Contact Information: The Old School House, Yapton, West Sussex, United Kingdom, BN18 0DU Website: http://www.psychwww.com/mtsite/

Online Personal Development Courses Website: http://www.quicknowledge.com

#### **Stress Dynamics**

Website: http://www.stressdynamics.com

#### Stress Free NET

Website: http://www.stressfree.com/

**Stress Management and Relaxation Central** Website: http://www.futurehealth.org/stresscn.htm

#### Stress Management Sites

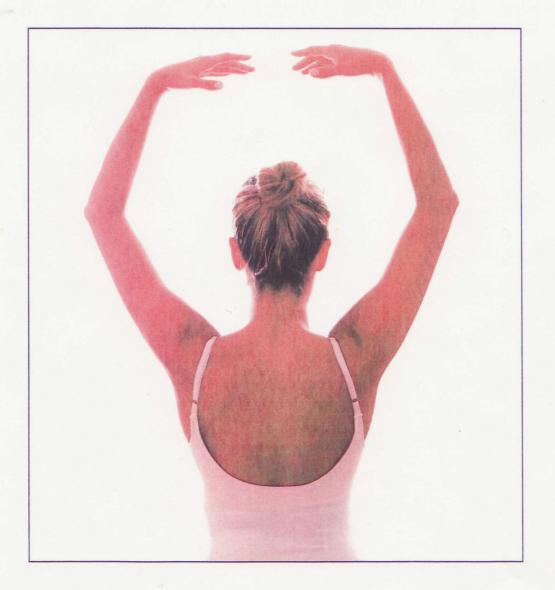
Website: http://www.helpself.com/directory/stress.htm

#### Stress Management Techniques

Website: http://www.stress-management-techniques.com/

#### Stress – Coping With Everyday Problems

National Mental Health Association Contact Information: 2001 N. Beauregard Street, 12th Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22311 Website: http://www.nmha.org/infoctr/factsheets/41.cfm



# **SECTION 4:**

#### **RESOURCES FOR COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

#### **Assertiveness Quiz**

Brain Injury Resource Center Contact Information: 212 Pioneer Bldg., Seattle, WA 98104-2221. Website: http://www.headinjury.com/assertquiz.htm

#### Assertive Communication

Barnette, Vivian University of Iowa – University Counseling Center. Website: http://www.uiowa.edu/~ucs/asertcom.html



# Career Article 131: How To Give and Take Criticism.

Website: http://www.seekingsuccess.com/articles/art131.php3

#### **Communication Skills Test – Abridged**

Website: http://discoveryhealth.queendom.com/ communication short access. html



#### Speaking Up: How To Be More Assertive

larboe, Edel Website: http://www.pioneerthinking.com/ej\_assertive.html

#### **Guidelines for Giving Feedback**

Pryor, Kenneth The Creative Edge Contact Information: 4527 Montgomery Drive, Suite F, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 Website: http://www.thecreativedge.org/Publications/feedbackguidelines.htm

http://www.crc4mse.org/ILS/Index.html

http://www.chaminade.org/inspire/learnstl.htm

http://www.ldpride.net/learning\_style.html

### **SECTION 5:**

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Allied Community Resources Website: http://www.alliedgroup.org/

Center for Personal Assistance Services Website: http://www.pascenter.org/home/index.php

**Connecticut Department of Labor** Website: http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/

**Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation** Website: http://www.dmr.state.ct.us/

**Connecticut Department of Social Services** Website: http://www.dss.state.ct.us/

**RewardingWork.com** Website: http://rewardingwork.org/

**Social Security Administration** Website: http://www.ssa.gov/disability/





The University of Connecticut A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence In Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service