

# 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](http://www.pubauth.saccounty.net), October 2013.