

# Assisted Living and Home Care License Types

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This resource provides general descriptions of the different Assisted Living and Home Care licenses issued by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

## Assisted Living

Minnesota requires a license for any provider that offers housing (sleeping accommodation) with services. This requirement applies to those providers offering specialized dementia care. Additional information about assisted living licensure is available through the [MDH Assisted Living website](#).

### Provisional License

A provisional assisted living facility (PALF) or a provisional assisted living facility with dementia care (PALFDC) is the required first step for new assisted living providers. It allows an organization to begin operating while MDH completes required inspections and its full license review as part of the approval process for full licensure.

Applicants must submit all required forms and checklists through MDH's Assisted Living Licensure portal and complete a full application under [Minnesota Statute §144G.12](#). MDH may deny an application if required information is missing or inaccurate.

### Assisted Living Facility License

An assisted living facility (ALF) license is issued once a provider successfully completes the provisional licensure process and meets all regulatory requirements. The ALF license is defined under [Minnesota Statute, section 144G.08, subdivision 7](#).

Licensed providers must comply with standards related to housing and services, facility requirements, business operations, and resident record management. Providers must also uphold all resident rights, including making sure residents are informed of their rights, receive person-centered care, and participate actively in service planning.

### Assisted Living Facility with Dementia Care

An assisted living facility with dementia care is an ALF that is authorized to offer specialized dementia care services. To be eligible, a provider must meet all requirements for assisted living

licensure under Minnesota Statute 144G.12 before obtaining the dementia care designation defined by [Minnesota Statute, section 144G.08, subdivision 8](#).

This license permits dementia-specific services and requires compliance with additional requirements found in [Minnesota Statute §144G.80–84](#), including specialized staff training, service planning, supervision, documentation, safety risk assessment, and safety features appropriate for people with dementia. This license is most appropriate for providers offering structured, dementia-specific programming beyond general assisted living services, and it is the only license that can operate secured memory care units.

A resident with a dementia diagnosis may live in an ALF if the ALF is able to meet that resident’s needs. An ALFDC license is not required to care for residents with a dementia diagnosis.

**For more information:** [Minnesota Department of Health’s Assisted Living: Resources and Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

## Home Care

The MDH defines a home care provider as “an individual, organization, association, corporation, unit of government, or other entity that is regularly engaged in delivering at least one home care service directly in a client’s home for a fee.” Home care licensees may not provide sleeping accommodations. Further information can be found on the [MDH Home Care website](#).

### Temporary Licensure

A temporary basic homecare (T-Basic) or a temporary comprehensive license is the required first step for new home care providers. These licenses allow new providers to begin operations while MDH completes the full review process, including an initial full survey. These licenses are tied to the same statutory framework as permanent licenses and are required before any home care services may be provided.

### Basic Home Care License

A basic home care license authorizes providers to deliver nonmedical, supportive, and assistive services in individuals’ homes. Services may include help with activities of daily living (ADLs), homemaking, and companion care, but do not include skilled nursing or complex medical tasks. This license is best suited for organizations providing nonmedical support such as assistance with daily activities. Qualifying services are defined in [Minnesota Statute §144A.471, subdivision 6](#).

### Examples of Basic Home Care Services

- Help with ADLs such as bathing, dressing, grooming, toileting, or mobility.
- Standby assistance, such as staying close by to make sure the person is safe and can complete tasks as needed.

- Medication reminders.
- Reminders to complete scheduled treatments or exercises.
- Preparing special diets ordered by a licensed health care professional.
- Reminders or safety monitoring (not simply social visits).
- Assistance with laundry, housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping, or other household chores and services can only be done if at least one of the above is also done.

## Comprehensive Home Care License

A comprehensive home care license allows providers to deliver the full range of home care services, including nursing and home health aide services. Qualifying services are defined in [Minnesota Statute §144A.471, subdivision 7](#). Check with [Minnesota Department of Human Services \(DHS\) Provider Enrollment](#) for any reimbursement or payment limitations based on your license type and the specific services you provide.

This license includes more extensive regulatory obligations, such as registered nurse (RN) clinical supervision, compliance with staffing standards, and development of detailed operational policies (e.g., infection control, quality management, emergency preparedness). Providers must deliver home care services for a fee during each 12-month license period to maintain licensure.

Providers are expected to be actively and consistently engaged in delivering services. For example, providing services on an infrequent basis, such as “1 to 2 times per year as needed,” does not meet this expectation. “Regularly engaged” means providing services on an ongoing basis that is more than occasional or incidental.

This license is best suited for providers intending to deliver complex medical care.

## Examples of Comprehensive Home Care Services

- Care provided by licensed professionals (such as nurses, therapists, or social workers)
- Medication management, including setup, administration, and monitoring
- Delegated health related tasks, provided under RN supervision
- Private duty nursing or higher acuity, medically complex care
- Hands-on assistance with transfers, positioning, and mobility
- Medical treatments and therapies
- Assistance with eating for people with complex needs (such as swallowing issues or tube feeding)