

What to Look for in Your Letter of Agreement with a Christian Science Nurse

“Christian Science Nurse. Sect. 31. A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.” (*Manual of The Mother Church*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 49:7)

You are entering into a special relationship with a Christian Science Nurse, and we’d like to suggest ideas for your thoughtful consideration. Beginning rightly will lead to a harmonious relationship. Each situation is unique, and you will want your agreement to identify and include any possible charges.

1. **Dates:** The agreement should identify the anticipated beginning date of care and end date, if known. It should also stipulate who is responsible for scheduling ongoing care, if that is needed and when that should be organized.
2. **Rates:** Most Christian Science nurses charge an hourly rate up to a certain number of hours, after which they charge a daily rate. For example, they may charge \$40/per hour up to 10 hours/day and a daily rate of \$400/day for anything over 10 hours. You should ask the Christian Science nurse what s/he will charge per hour and per day, and, if applicable, at what point a daily rather than an hourly rate would be charged. Identify if this will be based on a calendar day or a 24-hour period. Keep in mind that Christian Science nurses on duty for 24-hour periods will need breaks and, typically, 8 hours of sleep at night.
3. **Accommodations** if the Christian Science nurse is staying overnight, discuss the following:
 - Does the Christian Science nurse feel the home is suitable for Christian Science nursing?
 - What are the sleeping arrangements: Private room? On the couch? In a bed? Are these arrangements acceptable to the Christian Science nurse?
 - Will you provide the Christian Science nurse with meals and snacks or the funds and means to provide them for him/herself?
 - Will there be sufficient timeoff/break time?
 - Does the Christian Science nurse require a vehicle for personal or care needs and, if so, who will provide it?
 - Does the Christian Science nurse have any other personal requirements?
4. **Charges Beyond the Daily Rate:** To avoid surprises, be sure to address any of the following possibilities, which in most cases will not be covered by a grant from NFCSN:
 - Will the Christian Science nurse expect compensation if an agreed upon break/time-off does not transpire? At what rate?
 - If you agree to provide meals, but then are not able to, how will that be compensated?
 - Will there be an extra charge if the Christian Science nurse must get up for care during the night? At what rate?

- - If you require nursing supplies, who will purchase/order them?
 - Will there be local or long distance travel costs charged to you? Will the Christian Science nurse drive, use public transportation, use private transportation (taxi, uber, etc)? As transportation costs can vary and increase, you should discuss an anticipated amount and a cap. If the Christian Science nurse is driving, identify:
 - The number of miles traveled
 - The mileage rate
 - If there will be a charge for local travel time and the rate
 - Tolls
5. What are the expected means of long-distance transportation? Is one means less expensive than another? What if there is an unexpected increase? What specific costs will be charged?
- Transportation to and from the airport or train/bus depot?
 - Ticket costs – Will there be seat upgrades from economy?
 - Baggage – How many bags? Cost per bag?
 - Travel insurance
 - Costs related to cancellation by you or the Christian Science nurse
 - What if a flight or ride is cancelled or re-routed resulting in hotel or meal costs?
 - Will the Christian Science nurse expect you to pay for travel time? What is the rate?

Remember: You are responsible for the invoice. Please carefully review it for any errors before submitting it to NFCSN for payment. Your submission indicates your approval. It helps us to pay the Christian Science nurse quickly if you submit a clean invoice.

- The Christian Science nurse should support all expenses charged to you with paid receipts. Be sure you know what costs your grant covers whether it's an NFCSN grant or one from another organization. If you are unsure, ask.
- You are responsible for any balance remaining after NFCSN has paid toward your invoice. However, if the Christian Science nurse does not disclose charges on your agreement, you have the right to discuss and dispute the charge with the Christian Science nurse.

Communication:

- You should discuss when and how often you and the Christian Science nurse should be in touch. Discussions should include your needs as a patient.
- You should include a specific time set aside to address regularly any changes in terms. Have an honest conversation as to whether you and/or the Christian Science nurse are satisfied with the arrangement.
- Any agreement can be terminated, so include those terms in your letter of agreement.
- You agree to rely on Christian Science for healing and work in loving cooperation with the Christian Science nurse. To the extent that you are able, you will communicate directly with the Christian Science practitioner, and you will receive Christian Science treatment daily.

“We should remember that the world is wide; that there are a thousand million different human wills, opinions, ambitions, tastes, and loves; that each person has a different history, constitution, culture, character, from all the rest; that human life is the work, the play, the ceaseless action and reaction upon each other of these different atoms.”
(Miscellaneous Writings 1883-1896, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 224:11-17)

Of the things mentioned above, what does NFCSN cover?

NFCSN grants will pay toward the hourly and daily rates of a Christian Science nurse, as follows:

- For a *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse, NFCSN grants will pay up to \$55/hour and \$440/day.
- For a non-*Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse, NFCSN grants will pay up to \$50/hour and \$400/day.

The grant will not apply toward any portion of rates that are in excess the maximums shown above. The following items are also not covered by a grant from NFCSN:

Accommodations for Christian Science nurses
Airfare
Airfare Baggage
Christian Science nursing supplies
Compensation for Unused Breaks
Equipment
Local Travel by Uber, Lyft, taxi, etc. to and from your location
Local Travel Time
Meals for Christian Science nurse
Mileage, Gas, or Commute Time for Errand Running
Mileage to and from your location
Night Calls
Tolls
Transportation to and from airport (mileage, Uber, Lyft, Taxi)
Travel Insurance
Travel time to get to a non-local case via air, driving, etc.

Please note: This table does not necessarily include all the items a grant will not cover. It is intended to help guide you as a patient when reviewing your Letter of Agreement and to inform you about what charges you might expect from a private duty Christian Science nurse.

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