FLORIDA

(Note: There is pending legislation in Florida which, if enacted, would amend many of Florida's statutes discussed below.)

Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee

An Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee is created by statute. By regulations, the Committee is responsible for training components. In addition, a Quality Long-Term Care Facility Improvement Trust Fund is created by statutes that may be used to develop and implement specialized training programs for long-term care facility personnel who provide direct care for residents with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

Nursing Homes

Florida statute and regulations outline the training requirements for nursing homes staff, and requires employees having direct contact with residents with Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder to have an initial training of at least one (1) hour. In addition, employees providing direct care must complete the required initial training and an additional three (3) hours of training, which shall include, managing problem behaviors, promoting the resident's independence in activities of daily living, and skills in working with families and caregivers. The regulations provide more specific subject areas of training.

Nursing home training providers, and curriculums, must be approved by regulation.

Assisted Living Facilities

Florida statute sets forth the staff training and education requirements for administrators and other assisted living facility staff. It also requires the department to establish a competency test, including training and education in the care of persons with Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. Administrators are required to have a minimum of 12 hours of continuing education every two years.
In addition, Florida provides by statute for special training requirements for staff of assisted living facilities that advertise as providing special care for persons with Alzheimer’s disease or other related disorders. It requires that direct caregivers receive initial training, plus an additional four (4) hours of dementia training developed by the department and four (4) hours per year of continuing education. Staff with only incidental contact with participants need only receive general information.

The Florida regulations outline training and competency requirements for Assisted Living Facilities, including the requirements for Administrators. In addition, the regulations provide specific requirements for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Training for facilities that advertise that they provide special care or who maintain a secure area. The regulations also set forth the requirements for training provider and curriculum approval.

**Adult Day Care**

Florida statutes regulates both adult day care centers, and adult day care centers with special care units. With respect to adult day care centers, the law specifies training requirements for staff members at adult day care centers, and requires that personnel expected to have direct contact with participants who have Alzheimer’s disease or dementia must complement an initial training of at least one (1) hour, and personnel who will be providing direct care to a participant who has Alzheimer’s disease or dementia must complete an additional three (3) hours of training, which must include specific dementia-related topics. With respect to the licensure designation as a specialized Alzheimer’s services adult day care center and staff training requirements, the law requires that operators of specialized adult day care centers meet certain educational requirements and have experience in providing services to persons who have dementia. The statutes also requires that personnel expected to have direct contact with participants who have Alzheimer’s disease or dementia must complement an initial training of at least four (4) hours, and that personnel who will be providing direct care to a participant who has Alzheimer’s disease or dementia complete an additional four (4) hours of training. Each employee hired after July 1, 2012 must also have orientation regarding wandering and the State’s Silver Alert system.
The regulations provide subject areas for training, credentials for trainers, and the approval process for training providers and curriculum.

**Home Health Agencies**

Florida statute and regulations provide the staff training requirements for home health agencies, and require that staff providing direct care to patients must complete two (2) hours of training in Alzheimer’s disease and dementia-related disorders within nine (9) months after beginning employment with the agency. This training must include, but is not limited to, an overview of dementia, a demonstration of basic skills in communicating with persons who have dementia, the management of problem behaviors, information about promoting the client's independence in activities of daily living, and instruction in skills for working with families and caregivers.

In addition, the training provider and curriculum approval requirements are provided in regulation.

**Hospice**

Florida’s statute and regulations outline the training requirements for Hospices employees, and require that employees who have direct contact with participants with Alzheimer’s disease complete an initial one (1) hour training with instruction in basic skills for communicating with persons who have dementia. In addition, employees providing direct care must complete an additional three (3) hours of training, including, but not limited to: the management of problem behaviors, information about promoting the patient's independence in activities of daily living, and instruction in skills for working with families and caregivers. The regulation also provides the credentials required for trainers.

**Law Enforcement**

Florida’s statute and regulations outline the training requirements for law enforcement personnel, and requires instruction on the identification and appropriate responses to persons suffering from dementia.
Long Term Care Ombudsman

Florida statute provides that the long-term care ombudsman shall ensure that all employees have a minimum of 20 hours of training, including training in care and medication of residents with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

Medicaid Waiver

Florida has a Medicaid waiver to cover costs in assisted living facilities, as well as state plan services that are available.