GEORGIA

Disclosure of Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease Statute

This statute requires that any facility or program which advertises, markets, or offers to provide specialized care or treatment for persons with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia must make certain disclosures, including specialized staff training.

Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

Georgia licenses and regulates both personal care homes (fewer than 25 beds) and assisted living facilities (which are facilities with 25 or more beds). Direct care staff in both are required to receive some limited training with respect to special needs populations with Alzheimer’s or dementia.

The state more highly regulates staff training in specialized memory care units in personal care homes and assisted living facilities. In particular, the regulations require that each facility must ensure that all staff members are trained to work with dementia patients, and outlines the training that must take place after the job commences, but before a specified period. For example, within six (6) months of employment, staff assigned to a specialized memory care unit must receive training in the following topics: the nature of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, including the definition of dementia; the need for careful diagnosis and knowledge of the stages of Alzheimer's disease; common behavior problems and appropriate behavior management techniques; communication skills that facilitate better resident-staff relations; positive therapeutic interventions and activities such as exercise, sensory stimulation, activities of daily living skills; the role of the family in caring for residents with dementia, as well as the support needed by the family of these residents; environmental modifications that can avoid problematic behavior and create a more therapeutic environment; development of comprehensive and individual service plans and how to update or provide relevant information for updating and implementing them consistently across all shifts, including establishing a baseline and concrete treatment goals and outcomes; new developments in diagnosis and therapy that impact the approach to caring for the residents in the special unit; recognizing physical or cognitive changes
in the resident that warrant seeking medical attention; and maintaining the safety of residents with dementia.

**Medicaid Waiver**

Medicaid waivers are available to cover the cost of services in personal care homes, but not assisted living facilities.