



How to Choose the Right Georgia Agency License

Private Home Care Provider, Home Health Agency, and Hospice are distinct paths in Georgia. Start with the services you will offer, the clients you will serve, and how your agency will operate.

Private Home Care Provider (PHCP)

Georgia's PHCP license can cover companion or sitter tasks, personal care tasks, and nursing services. These are service categories within the PHCP framework; each has its own staffing and supervision considerations. Physical, occupational, and speech therapy are outside the PHCP service definition.

Home Health Agency (HHA)

A Home Health Agency is a separate license for services under a physician-signed treatment plan, including part-time or intermittent skilled nursing and at least one additional home health service. Certificate of Need review may also affect a new or expanded HHA. State licensure and federal Medicare certification should be planned as separate steps.

Hospice

Hospice has its own license for a coordinated program of care focused on comfort, symptom relief, and support for patients and families. Its care team, policies, and service model must be built for hospice requirements rather than added to a home care plan as an afterthought.

Questions to consider

- Will you offer companion or sitter tasks, hands-on personal care, nursing, home health services, or hospice care?
- If you plan nursing services, does your staffing and supervision plan fit the chosen license?
- Will you provide therapy or other services that fall outside the PHCP scope?
- Could Certificate of Need review or Medicare certification affect your HHA plans?
- Do your policies, application, and business plan describe the same services?

One Georgia distinction

Offering nursing in a client's home does not, by itself, make the agency a licensed HHA. Georgia permits nursing within the PHCP framework, while HHA licensure covers a different service model. Define the full scope before selecting a path.

Not sure which Georgia path fits your agency?

NorthEnd Consulting helps prospective Georgia agency owners clarify planned services and prepare application materials aligned with the appropriate licensing path.

Visit northendconsultants.com to discuss your licensing plan

Licensing, Certificate of Need, and certification decisions are controlled by Georgia DCH and other applicable authorities. This is a general planning resource; requirements depend on an agency's proposed services. NorthEnd Consulting does not guarantee approval.