

Francine's story

Hi, I'm Francine, PA to Tess, a 28-year-old woman who uses an electric wheelchair as she has Spinal Muscular Atrophy type two.

I became Tess's PA when I was made redundant from a long-term job. Tess is a family member who at the time was attending university doing a degree and needed someone to attend university with her.

I started working for Tess one day a week, and after five months I moved onto a full-time contract. My duties at that time were getting Tess ready for her days at university and then using her adapted vehicle to drive Tess to university and attend lectures and seminars with her.

Several years later, Tess now lives independently in her own apartment in the centre of town, and I now work 72 hour shifts on a live-in basis.

As well as all of Tess' personal hygiene care and attending work with her, my duties now also include general housekeeping, washing, tidying and watching crime series on Netflix! Not forgetting being there for Tess for whatever she may need throughout the day such as preparing meals and using the bathroom.

I have done this job for 10 years and have no current plans to change career!