

Dear Social Security,

I have been taking care of Judy Brown for two years. I come to her house every day for three hours. She has problems doing tasks with her hands, and her arthritis has gotten worse in the two years that I have been helping her.

Ms. Brown can't do many things in the kitchen because of the problems with her hands. I prepare two meals for her every time I visit so that she can have a lunch and dinner that just need to be warmed in the microwave until I visit again. She can't use a knife to prepare food or cut food on her plate, so I make food that is already in bite-sized pieces.

I also help Ms. Brown open her mail because she can't use her hands to get the envelopes open. I help her pay her bills and check her email on the computer. I help her cut her nails and do her hair.

Ms. Brown also has some problems getting around. For example, it's not safe for her to get in and out of the shower by herself. She has fallen twice in the last year when she has tried to get out of the shower by herself. Once I found her on the bathroom floor and had to call an ambulance for her because she had dislocated her shoulder when she fell.

Sincerely,

Tina Smith

Home Care Worker