

How to get organized for travel

Question:

I am very interested in travel nursing. I have had a couple of local assignments with companies other than your partners. I have a problem with getting things in order before assignments. What do you recommend for someone starting out, every way I turned it called for money out of my pocket, which I did not have. Should I start with assignments in my home state first? How does one get started, and then go from one assignment to another without having to spend a lot of money up front?

Response:

No problem. You just need to get organized and I can give you a little information that will help you. Dealing with so many companies and all their paperwork requirements can seem overwhelming at times. Here is the secret though. Most of the companies all ask for the same documentation to get started. If you have all your documents together ahead of time, it won't seem like such a big deal. Below is a list of the documents most companies will ask you for.

1. A copy of your CPR and other certificates related to your specialty
2. Copy of your nursing license
3. A copy of your social security card
4. A health physical (no more than a year old)
5. Proof of your Hepatitis B Vaccination or you can sign a declination form provided by them to decline getting the vaccine.
6. TB skin test (no more than one year old)
7. Two letters of reference
8. Proof of immunizations for Mumps, Rubeola, Rubella and Varicella
9. Your resume

If you gather all these documents, you will be well on your way to the next travel assignment. Other additional items won't seem like such a big deal such as their application form and skills checklist.

Keep all your documents together in a file that you take with you on your travel assignments. Make sure to make a copy of it and keep it somewhere safe in case you were to lose your travel file in the process of moving. If you have a computer, you can also scan the documents into your computer into a file and then zap it over to a recruiter when you want to apply for an assignment. This works well for everyone involved. No faxing fees or time elapsed in the mail.

As far as upfront money, you shouldn't have to pay much upfront money except for travel to your new location and perhaps your new nursing license for the state you will be working in. The money is usually reimbursed to you by the company. Travel expenses can be kept to a minimum by either staying at Motel 6 along the way or camping as you travel. If decide to camp, please take a friend who can camp with you and have them fly back once you have reached your location. Road trips and camping can be so much fun. Plan your route before you go and make sure you leave plenty of time to set up before it gets dark. If planning is not your thing, it may be worth it for you to join triple AAA and they will help you plan your trips, find camping, discounts, and assistance on the road if you were to ever need it.

