

How to shop for Agencies

So many agencies and so many places to go. What's a nurse to do? Whether you like it or not, you have to go shopping. Some people love to shop, while others dread it. Agency shopping is particularly challenging because you can't see the items you are shopping for. You have no idea if you are calling a large company or a mom and pop operation and the service is so abstract.

If you really want to find a company that is right for you, take time to ask a few questions about the company itself before getting into assignment locations. Once you have thought about your traveling goals and what you would like to find in a company, consider asking a few of the following questions:

- Do you provide liability insurance while I am working?
- How long has the recruiter been with the company?
- Can you give me an idea of the size of your company?
- How long has the company been in business?
- What do you feel is the best quality your company has to offer?
- What are do you feel your company could improve upon?
- What kind of nursing support do you offer for discrepancies with the hospital?
- What benefits and long term incentives do you offer?
- What assignment locations do your nurses tend to like most and why?

These questions give you an idea of how established the company is and how experienced and upfront your recruiter is going to be with you. Remember to use your nursing skills and ask the least non-threatening questions first.

If you want to know what other travelers think about different companies, you can go to www.travelnursingcentral.com and view their agency rankings. This is an uncensored site for travelers, from all over the country, to send their opinions and describe their experiences with different travel companies.

While the questions and others opinions are important, your feelings are more important. What is your overall feeling about the company after asking these questions? If you could sum up (in one word) how you want to feel when you work with your company, what would that word be? Now.....go with your gut.