

JAMES D. RODGERS, PH.D.
Economic Appraisals & Forensic Economics
237 Timberton Circle
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823-9070
814/355-4944
Facsimile 877-420-7617
jdr@psu.edu
www.jimrodgers.com

CHECKLIST FOR HOUSEHOLD WORK - WRONGFUL DEATH CASES
BY
JAMES D. RODGERS, PH.D.,

I. Categories of Household Work

The most widely-cited study of time use is the ongoing *American Time Use Survey* (ATUS) from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. For a description of this survey, see <http://www.bls.gov/tus/>. The data from this survey are used in the annual publication *The Dollar Value of a Day* (DVD) (From Expectancy Data, Shawnee Mission, Kansas) to arrive at the average time used in five major categories: household production; caring and helping; personal time; leisure; and employment and education. Time spent on the non-market services typically relevant when computing the value of lost household services in economic damage appraisals are divided into the seven subgroups comprising household work and three of the five subgroups for caring and helping, for a total of ten time use categories. The seven subcategories of household work in DVD are as follows:

(1) **Inside Housework:** includes **interior cleaning** (changing sheets, cleaning bathrooms, cleaning bedrooms, cleaning carpets, cleaning cupboards, cleaning floors, cleaning inside windows, cleaning out closets, cleaning out drawers, cleaning the house, cleaning the toilet, dusting, emptying trash cans, making the bed, mopping floors, picking up clothes, picking up toys, polishing furniture, recycling, scrubbing, shampooing carpet; sorting newspapers for recycling, sweeping floors, taking out trash, tidying up; vacuuming, washing floors, washing walls); **laundry** (adding fabric softener, bring in washing/laundry, checking wash, folding clean laundry, folding clothes, hand-washing clothing, hanging clothes on clothesline, ironing, putting clean laundry away, putting laundry in washer/dryer, putting out clean towels, removing lint from dryer, sorting laundry, spot treating clothes, taking clothes off the line, taking close out of the washer, treating stains, washing curtains); **sewing, repairing and maintaining textiles** (altering clothing, cleaning shows/sneakers, crocheting, hemming garments, knitting blankets and sweaters, polishing shoes, repairing curtains, repairing/caring for clothes, hats and shoes, sewing on buttons, sewing new clothing); **storing interior household items, including food** (boxing things up for storage, carrying in the groceries, moving stuff to attic/basement, putting away decorations and holiday items, putting away groceries and other shopping items).

(2) **Food Cooking and Clean-up:** includes **food and drink preparation** (baking/cooking/broiling/boiling, cooking meals, mixing baby formula, packing lunches, preserving food); **food presentation** (serving meals, setting the table, polishing silver, passing out drinks, filling the salt/pepper shaker); **kitchen and food clean-up** (cleaning barbeque grill,

freezer, refrigerator, stove, plates and food, clearing the table, defrosting freezer, emptying dishwasher, loading the dishwasher, mopping kitchen floor, putting dishes away, putting leftovers away, rising dishes, throwing away leftovers, washing pots and pans, washing/drying dishes, wiping table).

(3) **Pets, Home and Vehicles:** includes **interior arrangement, decoration and repairs** (changing light bulbs, decorating, fixing leaks, hanging blinds/shades, curtains, pictures, wallpaper, installing carpet, laying linoleum/tile/wood floors, making plumbing improvements, painting, plastering, remodeling); **building and furniture repair** (assembling, making, painting, refinishing, repairing, re-upholstering furniture); **heating and cooling** (bringing in wood/kindling, chopping/collecting/stacking firewood, changing furnace filter, filling heater with fuel, installing stove/room AC unit, shoveling coal); **exterior cleaning** (cleaning chimney/garage/gutters/shed, putting away bicycles and outside toys, removing ice from driveway and walkways, shoveling snow, sweeping deck/patio//garage/sidewalk/steps, washing outside windows); **exterior repairs, improvements and decoration** (building a deck, fence, garage, carport or shed, decorating exterior and removing decorations for holidays or otherwise, fixing bird feeding, broken windows, mailbox, roof, painting exterior, painting/staining porch, deck, fence, paving or blacktopping, replacing/repairing screens, setting up outside/patio furniture); **lawn, garden and houseplant care** (adding chemicals to lawn, blowing leaves, collecting eggs, cutting grass, edging, gardening, harvesting fruits and vegetables, laying paving stones, mulching, planting, pruning/trimming hedges and shrubs, spraying for pests, watering, weeding); **ponds, pools and hot tubs** (filling, draining, adding chemicals, winterizing); **care for animals and pets (except veterinary care)** (feeding, watering, bathing, exercising); **vehicle repair and maintenance (by self)** (adding equipment such as hitches and audio equipment to vehicles, changing oil, checking tires, checking and filling fluids, changing filters, replacing license plates and registration stickers, washing/waxing vehicles, cleaning interior of vehicles, replacing lights, brakes); **appliance, tool and toy set-up, repair and maintenance (by self)** (installing heating or A/C equipment, computer set-up and loading of computer software, installation of computer accessories such as printer, scanner and modem, setting and winding clocks, repairing appliances and maintaining tools and equipment, changing batteries, cleaning and oiling lawn-tending equipment).

(4) **Household Management:** includes **financial management** (balancing the checkbook, researching and buying/selling stocks, filing receipts and financial papers, filling out tax forms, making a budget, paying bills); **household and personal organization and planning** (making shopping and other "to-do" lists, planning household events, sorting and organizing paper work, packing for trips, labeling and storing); **household and personal mail and messages** (sending, checking and sorting mail, packages, checking and responding to phone and email messages); **home security** (checking locks on doors and windows, closing blinds and curtains, installing and maintaining alarms, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers); **using paid child care services, banking services, legal services, real estate services and social services** (checking out daycare providers, tutors, providers of lessons such as piano teachers, paying for these services, making bank deposits and withdrawals, applying for loans, credit cards, meeting with attorneys or their staff and waiting time in connection with obtaining these services)

(5) **Shopping for Goods:** includes **grocery shopping; purchasing gasoline; shopping for other items except food and gas; researching purchases and comparison shopping; waiting time associated with shopping; telephone calls to and from sales people.**

(6) Obtaining Services: includes time involving in obtaining veterinary services, interior cleaning services, meal preparation services, clothing repair and cleaning services, home maintenance, repair, decoration and construction services, pet services, lawn and garden services, vehicle maintenance and repair services, and paid child and adult care providers.

(7) Travel for Household Activity: including travel related to housework, shopping and obtaining services.

The three subcategories of caring and helping in DVD are as follows:

(8) Caring For and Helping Household Children: including physical care for household children, playing with and talking to household children, attending meetings and conferences, helping with homework, and obtaining medical care for household children.

(9) Caring For and Helping Household Adults: including physical care for household adults, and obtaining medical care for household adults.

(10) Travel Related to Helping Household Members

II. Obtaining the Information

After reviewing section I, please have a family member complete the form below. "(Y)es/(N)o" indicates whether the decedent performed the activity or not. When indicating the number of hours, please specify the time period, i.e., per day, per week, per month, etc.

Type of Work or Activity	(Y)es/(N)o	# of Hours
Inside Housework		
Food Cooking & Clean-Up		
Pets, Home & Vehicles		
Household Management		
Shopping for Goods		
Obtaining Services		
Travel for Household Activity		
Caring for Household Children		
Caring for Household Adults		

Travel for Household Members		
------------------------------	--	--

1. Did the decedent own a home, rent or live with relatives?
2. What was the size (square feet of living area) of the dwelling in which the decedent lived?
3. What was the size of the yard surrounding the home where the decedent lived?
4. Has anyone been hired to perform household services since the decedent's death? If so, on how many occasions? At what cost per occasion? At what hourly rate?