

Mainstay Senior Living	
TITLE: In Person Visitation for Essential Caregivers	POLICY NUMBER:
APPROVED:	Regulatory Reference: FS 408.823
Date: 5/6/2022	

Policy:

At times there may be circumstances which restrict resident visitation, such as pandemic flu or presence of infectious diseases that may require isolation. Florida Statute 408.823, the “No Patient Left Alone Act” requires **assisted living facilities** to implement a policy that allows a resident to have in person visits by an Essential Caregiver during these circumstances. The visitation policies and procedures required must allow in person visitation by Essential Caregivers in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:

1. End of life situations.
2. A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the provider’s care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in person family support.
3. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
4. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
5. A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.

Procedure:

Before in person visitation, all Essential Caregivers must adhere to the following:

1. Sign in upon entering the facility and before interacting with any staff, residents, family members or friends.
2. Comply with the infection control and education policies for visitors. Infection control policies may require a visitor to wear Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) including wearing a face mask properly, and other necessary PPE and perform hand hygiene. Staff will provide directions on the proper use of PPE.
3. The visitor shall sign this policy and acknowledge an understanding of the visitation policy. Failure of visitors to adhere to the policy shall result in suspension of in person visitation.
4. Submit to a screening which includes temperatures and /or a questionnaire about health status.
5. Visitation hours will be 9am to 9pm. As per FS 429.28 (1)(d). Any visitation outside of those hours will be considered upon request to the administrator. During these hours, in person visitation by the essential caregiver is allowed for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider.
6. While minimizing physical contact and social distancing may be encouraged to limit exposure, consensual physical contact between a resident and the visitor is NOT prohibited.

7. A resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver.
8. This section does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident and providers may not require an essential caregiver to provide such care.

PROCEDURES: in house procedures include:

1. All current residents shall be provided with a copy of the new policy. The Administrator or Designee shall discuss the policy during the resident monthly meeting.
2. Upon admission to **the assisted living facility**, the resident or legal representative shall complete the acknowledgement of the policy and shall sign and date the form. A copy of the executed form shall be placed in the resident business file and shall be subject to review upon request.
3. The form and policy shall be incorporated into the Resident Handbook and house rules for visitation.
4. Staff training on the subject shall be included in the in-service training for Residents Rights and Emergency Procedures.
5. All Essential Caregivers shall sign in to a log sheet understanding that by signing in they agree to follow the visitation policies of **the assisted living facility**.