

NO PATIENT LEFT ALONE ACT

SECTION:	Infection and Exposure Control
APPLIES TO:	Assisted Living, Memory Care
DATE:	May 06, 2022
STATE SPECIFIC:	Florida (For Public Posting)

POLICY:

It is the policy of **DOROTHY CARES ALF, LLC.** to comply with the "No Patient Left Alone Act", as it guarantees Florida families the fundamental right to visit their loved ones who are receiving care in hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled (long-term care facilities). **No** health care facility in Florida may require a vaccine as a condition of visitation and every health care facility must allow their residents and patients to be hugged by their loved ones.

All residents are allowed to be hugged by their loved ones.

All hospitals, hospices, and long-term facilities visitation policies and procedures must allow for in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects. This policy allows:

- End-of-life situations
- A resident, client, or patient 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
- A resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions
- A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died
- A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver
- A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
- For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery
- Pediatric patients

We allow resident, client, or patient the option to designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. The we allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least two (2) hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider.

Please see the Administrator if you need assistance with becoming as essential caregiver.

Our community has policies and procedures meet or exceed the standards included in 400.022(1)(b) pertaining to Resident Rights, which are posted within the community.

SB 988, No Patient Left Alone Act-April 6, 2022

Visitation Policy

Daily visits to residents in the facility shall be allowed. Visiting hours will not be restricted, except by a resident when it is the residents' choice. The community will encourage regular family involvement with the resident and shall supply opportunities for family participation in activities at the facility.

During a declared public health emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat, the community will allow the resident to have visits consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and subject to compliance with any executive order, order of public health, Department guidance, or any other applicable federal or state guidance having the effect of limiting visitation. During a declared public visitor at the time, unless the Agency, CDC and Department of Health mandates a different number of visitors or no visitations at all at the facility.

The facility will always follow the Agency, Department of Health requirements and the CDC guidelines in the event the said regulatory agency or agencies limits visitation such as but limited to:

- Video Conferencing
- Audio Chats
- Window Visits

Visitors should still be screened and restricted from visiting if they have: current signs and symptoms of any communicable disease.

For Example: SARS-CoV-2 infection; symptoms of COVID-19, Tuberculosis; or prolonged close contact (within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days.

The Facility can refuse a visitor who does not pass the screening or refuse to comply with these policies and procedures.

Visitors and residents (if tolerated) should wear a well-fitting cloth mask, facemask, or respirator when situation warrants. Hand hygiene should be performed by the resident and the visitors before and after contact.

A resident has the option to designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian or other individual as an essential caregiver and the facility must allow in-person visitation for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the facility.

Resident whose circumstances are different from those described in part 1 could receive visit of families and friends between 9am and 9pm according to 59A-36.

During a declared public health emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat the residents are encouraged to receive any number of visitors desired. This facility always prioritizes the resident's rights, their safety and emotional wellbeing.

The facility may authorize prior request of residents or family members in consideration to specific circumstances that visitation be other times.

The facility will have a room or designated area where residents and visitors can stay comfortable and have proper privacy. The facility will not require visitors to be vaccinated but will continue requiring screening for fever, signs and symptoms of each visitor.

The facility will have available for visitors the policies and procedure including infection control protocol, visitors will be required to adhere to the policies and procedures. The Administrator and all the staff at the facility will ensure that these policies and procedures are followed, and residents and their families can contact wishes in a safe environment.

If you feel as if you have met resistance from a hospital, hospice, or long-term care facility when attempting to visit with loved ones, you may file a complaint with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) for further review and action online at www.ahca.myflorida.com/visitation or call our dedicated phone line for visitation related complaints 888-775-6055.

Normal Business Hours are Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm

Visiting Hours are daily from 9am to 9pm

Please Contact Us for More Information

Hours for Visitation