



Senior Paradise ALF

Essential Caregiver Visitation Policy

Purpose

In-Person Visitation bill has been signed into law, creating Chapter 408.823, which is subject to "In-person visitation." This policy and procedures are intended to serve as a compliance for Senior Paradise Assisted Living facility to comply with the regulations set forth in Chapter 408.823, Florida Statutes.

A resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver.

Policy

The following are the procedures to be followed to identify Essential Caregivers for residents and the expectations. These procedures will be administered equally to all residents that request to have an essential caregiver, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity and transgender status), age, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

Essential caregiver visitors provide emotional support to help a resident deal with a difficult transition or loss, upsetting event, making major medical decisions, needs cuing to eat and drink, stops speaking, or end-of-life. Essential caregiver visitors may be allowed entry into facilities on a limited basis for these specific purposes.

The Senior Paradise will allow at a minimum in-person visitation for at least 2-hours daily under these circumstances. At Senior Paradise ALF, the 2-hour visitation will be between 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Senior Paradise ALF may make exceptions to the 2-hour visitation on a case-by-case basis for end-of-life residents. These exceptions will be discussed and agreed upon in writing by the facility's designee and the resident's responsible party.

Procedures

I. For designation and utilization of essential caregiver visitors:

1. SENIOR PARADISE ALF will provide the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) with a copy of the facility's essential caregiver visitor's policy and procedure, with the initial licensure application, renewal application and/or change of ownership application.
2. SENIOR PARADISE ALF essential caregiver visitor's policy and procedure is available on SENIOR PARADISE ALF's homepage at <https://seniorparadisellc.com>
3. SENIOR PARADISE ALF has designated Garon Lindo as key staff responsible for supporting infection prevention and control training.

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4. Senior Paradise ALF will set a limit on the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at any given time based on staffing ability to safely screen and monitor visitors and the available space to accommodate essential caregivers.
 - a. a. Identify locations for visitation and care, including planning for residents in shared spaces and areas with minimal common space.
 - b. b. Provide outdoor visitation spaces protected from weather elements, such as porches, courtyards, patios, or covered areas with cooling devices if needed.
 - c. c. Create indoor visitation spaces that are not accessible to other residents or in a resident's private room when medically necessary.
5. All residents and/or POA/Guardian will be asked if they want to identify an Essential Caregiver.
6. All new residents will be asked if they would like to identify an Essential Caregiver upon move-in.
7. All residents may update the named Essential Caregiver of record within 2 business days of request.
8. Residents are allowed in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances unless the resident objects:
 - a. a. End-of-life situations.
 - b. b. When the resident previously lived with family and is struggling with the change in environment.
 - c. c. When the resident is making major medical decisions.
 - d. d. When the resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving.
 - e. e. When the resident requires cueing or encouragement to eat or drink.
 - f. f. When a resident who previously interacted with others is now seldom speaking.
9. Senior Paradise will maintain a visitor log for signing in and out.
10. No more than one essential caregiver visitor may be designated per resident.
11. The policy does NOT prohibit essential caregiver visits if the resident is quarantined, positive, or symptomatic. Additional PPE may be required, and general visitation restrictions do not apply to essential caregivers.
12. Senior Paradise ALF is not required to provide facility-funded COVID-19 testing unless required by CDC/FDA guidelines. Costs cannot be passed to visitors.
13. Essential caregiver visitors must wear Personal Protective equipment (PPE) per Infection Control Policies. PPE must match what staff use for resident care.

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14. Any changes to essential caregiver policies must be promptly communicated to residents and essential caregivers.
15. Essential caregiver visits may take place in the resident's room or a designated area determined by Senior Paradise ALF at the time the visitation schedule is developed and agreed upon.
16. Senior Paradise ALF will not compel visitors to provide proof of vaccination or immunization status.
17. The visitation policy allows for consensual physical contact between a resident and a visitor.
18. Senior Paradise has designated Garon Lindo as the person responsible for staff adherence to visitation policies and procedures.

II. To facilitate visits by Essential caregiver visitors upon a request from a resident or friend/family member:

1. 1. The resident (or representative) will read and sign the policy and procedures. The signature acknowledges understanding and agreement to comply.
2. 2. The essential caregiver visitor will complete training on Senior Paradise ALF infection prevention and control, including PPE use, mask use, hand sanitation, and social distancing.
3. 3. The essential caregiver visitor must immediately inform the facility if they develop symptoms consistent with a communicable disease within 24 hours of their last visit.
4. 4. Essential caregiver may take place in the resident's room or a designated area determined by Senior Paradise ALF at the time of visitation scheduled is developed and agreed upon.

III. When an essential caregiver visitor is scheduled to visit, the facility will:

1. 1. Senior Paradise ALF will thoroughly screen the visitor per the facility's infection control policy and procedure and document the name of the individual, the date and time of entry, and the screening mechanism used, along with the screening employee's name and signature. If the visitor fails the screening, they CANNOT be allowed entry.
2. 2. Senior Paradise ALF will ensure that required consents, training, and policy acknowledgments are in place.
3. 3. Senior Paradise ALF will ensure that the essential caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE if applicable.
4. 4. Senior Paradise ALF will require the essential caregiver visitor to sign in and out on the visitor log.

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5. Senior Paradise ALF will monitor the essential caregiver visitor's adherence to policies and procedures.
6. If the essential caregiver visitor fails to follow infection prevention and control requirements, after attempts to mitigate concerns, Senior Paradise ALF shall restrict or revoke visitation.
7. If an essential caregiver visitor's status is revoked due to non-compliance, the resident may select another essential caregiver visitor who will be granted visitation rights upon proper vetting and agreeing to Senior Paradise ALF's policies and procedures.

CHAPTER 2022-34 – No Patient Left Alone Act

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 988

An act relating to in-person visitation; providing a short title; creating s. 408.823, F.S.; providing applicability; requiring certain providers to establish visitation policies and procedures within a specified timeframe; providing requirements for such policies and procedures; authorizing the resident, client, or patient to designate an essential caregiver; establishing requirements related to essential caregivers; requiring in-person visitation in certain circumstances; providing that the policies and procedures may require visitors to agree in writing to follow such policies and procedures; authorizing providers to suspend in-person visitation of specific visitors under certain circumstances; requiring providers to provide their policies and procedures to the Agency for Health Care Administration at specified times; requiring providers to make their policies and procedures available to the agency for review at any time, upon request; requiring providers to make their policies and procedures easily accessible from the homepage of their websites within a specified timeframe; requiring the agency to dedicate a stand-alone page on its website to explain visitation requirements and provide a complaint link; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "No Patient Left Alone Act."

Section 2. Section 408.823, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

408.823 In-person visitation.

(1) This section applies to developmental disabilities centers as defined in s. 393.063, hospitals licensed under chapter 395, nursing home facilities licensed under part II of chapter 400, hospice facilities licensed under part IV of chapter 400, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled licensed and certified under part VIII of chapter 400, and assisted living facilities licensed under part I of chapter 429.

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(2)(a) No later than 30 days after the effective date of this act, each provider shall establish visitation policies and procedures. The policies and procedures must, at a minimum, include infection control and education policies for visitors; screening, personal protective equipment, and other infection control protocols for visitors; permissible length of visits and numbers of visitors, which must meet or exceed the standards in ss. 400.022(1)(b) and 429.28(1)(d), as applicable; and designation of a person responsible for ensuring that staff adhere to the policies and procedures. Safety-related policies and procedures may not be more stringent than those established for the provider's staff and may not require visitors to submit proof of any vaccination or immunization. The policies and procedures must allow consensual physical contact between a resident, client, or patient and the visitor.

(b) A resident, client, or patient may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. The provider must allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider. This section does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care, and providers may not require such care.

(c) The visitation policies and procedures required by this section must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:

1. End-of-life situations.

2. A resident, client, or patient who previously lived with family and is struggling with the change in environment.

3. Major medical decision-making.

4. Emotional distress or grief from loss.

5. Cueing or encouragement needed for eating or drinking previously provided by family or caregiver.

6. A resident, client, or patient who used to speak or interact is now seldom speaking.

7. For hospitals, childbirth including labor and delivery.

8. Pediatric patients.

(d) The policies may require visitors to agree in writing to follow protocols. A provider may suspend in-person visitation of a specific visitor for violating policies.

(e) Providers must submit visitation policies to AHCA during licensure, renewal, or change of ownership and make policies available upon request.

(f) Within 24 hours of establishing policies, providers must make them accessible from the homepage of their websites.

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(3) The agency shall dedicate a stand-alone page on its website to explain the visitation requirements of this section and provide a link to report complaints.

Section 3. The Division of Law Revision is directed to replace the phrase “30 days after the effective date of this act” with the date 30 days after this act becomes a law.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2022.

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Exhibit B: Essential Caregivers Designation

I, _____, designate _____ as essential caregiver for _____. In making this designation, I consent and understand that:

- Visits by essential caregivers are subject to Senior Paradise ALF's policies and procedures and the ability to screen visitors and monitor visits.
- All essential caregiver visits may be scheduled based on current facility conditions and will be set for a minimum of 2 hours daily.
- Limited to one visitor at a time and limited to designated areas only. (Please speak with the Administrator regarding possible exceptions for end-of-life situations.)
- Senior Paradise ALF has the ability to object to a visit at any time, even under the following circumstances:
 1. 1. End-of-life situations.
 2. 2. 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.
 3. 3. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
 4. 4. The resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 5. 5. The resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
 6. 6. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
- Essential caregivers must follow the facility's infection control and education policies and procedures and agree to such. At no time will they be more stringent than those for staff and at no time require proof of vaccination.
- Essential caregivers must sign an acknowledgment of completion of required trainings and adherence to infection prevention and control policies.
- Visits by a specific essential caregiver may be suspended for failure to follow infection prevention and control requirements or other related rules of Senior Paradise ALF. At that time, the resident or resident's representative can designate a new essential caregiver.

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Resident or Legal Representative Signature

Date

Resident or Legal Representative Printed Name

Date

Facility Representative Signature

Date:

Facility Representative Printed Name

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Exhibit C: Essential Caregivers Acknowledgement

I, _____, accept the designation as an essential caregiver for _____.

- My visits as an essential caregiver are subject to Senior Paradise ALF's infection control and education policies and procedures. I acknowledge receiving the policies and procedures and agree to abide by them at all times.
- My visits as an essential caregiver may be scheduled and may be no less than two hours per day.
- Essential caregiver visits cannot occur if the resident personally objects or declines your visit, no matter the circumstance, per 408.823 F.S.:

"(c) The visitation policies and procedures required by this section must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:

1. End-of-life situations.
2. 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.
3. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
4. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
5. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
6. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking."

- When visiting as an essential caregiver, I will utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) as determined by facility policies and procedures related to current facility status and current medical condition of Senior Paradise ALF.
- I acknowledge having received training on infection prevention and control, use of PPE, use of masks, hand sanitation, and social distancing. I am satisfied with the training provided and have no further questions regarding any of these topics.

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- I acknowledge my obligation and agree to immediately notify Senior Paradise ALF if I experience symptoms of a respiratory infection, cough, fever, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, chills, headache, muscle pain, repeated shaking with chills, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, symptoms possibly related to a contagious infection, or if I test positive for COVID-19 within fourteen (14) days of a visit.
- Visits by essential caregivers may be restricted or revoked for failure to follow infection prevention and control procedures of Senior Paradise ALF.

Designated Essential Caregiver Signature

Date

Designated Essential Caregiver Printed Name

Facility Representative Signature

Date

Facility Representative Printed Name

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SENIOR PARADISE ALF SCREENING SIGN-IN CHECKLIST