

In Person Visitation Policy

" No Patient Left Alone Act"

Purpose:

At times there may be circumstances which restrict Resident visitation, such as pandemic flu or presence of infectious diseases which may require isolation. Florida Statute 408.823, the "No Patient Left Alone Act" requires ZION'S II ALF & ABIDE N LOVE to implement a policy that allows a Resident to have in-person visits by an Essential Caregiver during these circumstances. The visitation protocols required by this statute must allow in-person visitation by Essential Caregivers in circumstances as outlined in this policy and procedure and allow consensual physical contact.

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 cueing 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 provider must allow at a minimum in-person visitation for at least 2 hours daily under these circumstances. At ZION'S II ALF & ABIDE N LOVE, the 2-hours visitation will be between 9:00am - 9:00pm.

The Executive Director may make exceptions to the 2-hours 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 Executive Director and the resident responsible party.

Exhibit:

- A) Florida Law Chapter 2022-34 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No.988
- B) Resident Essential Caregiver Designation Form
- C) Essential Caregiver Acceptance Form

Procedures:

1. For designation and utilization of essential caregiver visitors.

1. The community 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.
2. The ZION'S II ALF & ABIDE N LOVE essential caregiver visitor's policy and procedure is available on the website at www.zionsassistedliving.com.
3. The executive director will designate key staff to support infection prevention and control training.
4. The executive director will set a limit on the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at any given time based on the ability of staff to safely screen and monitor the space to accommodate the essential caregiver visitors.

Considerations will include but no limited to:

- a. Identify locations for visitation/care to occur planning for residents in shared spaces and facilities with minimal common space to identify maximum time availability.
 - b. Provide outdoor visitation spaces that are protected from weather elements, such as porches, courtyards, patios, or other covered areas that are protected from heat and sun, with cooling devices, if needed.
 - c. Create indoor visitation spaces for residents in a room that is not accessible by other residents or in a resident's private room if the resident is bedbound and for health reasons cannot leave his or her room.
5. All residents and/or responsible party, if appropriate, 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 and/or responsible party will be allowed to update as requested the named essential caregiver of record.
 8. Residents are allowed in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:
 - a) End-of-life situations.
 - b) 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.
 - c) The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
 - d) A resident client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 - e) A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
 - f) A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
 9. Maintain a visitor log for signing in and out.
 10. No more than three essential caregiver visitors may be designated per resident.
 11. The policy does NOT prohibit essential caregiver visitor visits if the specific resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive, or showing symptoms of a communicable disease. Visits in these circumstances will likely require a higher level of PPE than standard surgical masks.
 12. Essential caregiver visitors must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) per facility's infection control policies. The PPE required must be consistent with the most recent CDC guidelines for healthcare workers. At Zion's II ALF the essential caregiver visitors shall wear the same PPE that staff wear to provide care or services to the resident.
 13. Any changes to the Zion's II ALF essential caregiver visitor policies must be promptly communicated to affected residents and essential caregiver visitors.

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

1. The resident (or their representative) will read and sign the policy and procedures. The acknowledgement of the signature represents that the essential caregiver visitor will abide by the policies set forth in this document.

2. The essential caregiver visitor will complete training on infection prevention and control including the use of PPE, use of masks, hand sanitation, and social distancing.
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 at the facility.
4. Essential caregiver visits may take place in the resident's room, or a designated area determined by the executive director at the time the visitation schedule is developed and agreed upon.

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

1. The facility designee will thoroughly screen the visitor per the facility's infection control policy and procedure and document the name of the individual, and the date and time of entry. Just as with staff entering the building, if the visitor fails the screening, the visitor CANNOT be allowed entry.
2. The executive director will ensure that the required consents, training, and policy acknowledgements are in place.
3. The designee will ensure that the caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE if applicable.
4. The designee will require the essential caregiver visitor to sign in and out on the visitor log.
5. The facility staff will monitor the essential caregiver visitor's adherence to policies and procedures.
6. If the essential caregiver visitor fails to follow the facility's infection prevention and control requirements, after attempts to mitigate concerns, the executive director shall restrict or revoke visitation.
7. In the event the essential caregiver visitor's status is revoked due to the individual not following the facility's policy and procedures, the resident may select a different essential caregiver visitor who will be granted visitation rights upon proper vetting and agreeing to policies and procedures.