

STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SECTION State Veterans Homes Program	NUMBER 7316	EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/22/2010; Revised 08/21/17, 07/18/2024, 8/1/24
SUBJECT: Resident Visitation		
APPROVED BY: Connie Tolley, NHA, Homes Program Director		

**I. STANDARD**

The resident has a right to receive visitors of his or her choosing at the time of his or her choosing, subject to the resident's right to deny visitation when applicable, and in a manner that does not impose on the rights of other residents in the facility.

**II. PROCEDURES**

The facility permits residents to receive visitors subject to the resident's wishes and the protection of the rights of other residents in the facility.

- Visitors are required to sign in on arrival and sign out at departure. Visitors are asked to refrain from visiting when they are ill. Visitors are not compelled to show/provide proof of vaccination or immunization of any kind.
- Residents, family and/or resident representatives are informed upon admission of their visitation rights and related policies. Visitors are informed of their visitation rights at sign in, including the right to be provided with education on infection control measures and supplies related to the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- The facility reserves the right to limit the number of visitors in a shared room at one time to ensure the rights of the person sharing the room are protected, in which case visitation can take place in another suitable location in the facility. There is no limit to the number of visitors a resident may receive.
- The facility reserves the right to change the location of a visit if such visit infringes upon the rights of the resident's roommate or other residents in the facility.
- A resident may have visitors of their choice at any time, if visitation is not medically contraindicated and does not infringe on the rights of the resident's roommate. There are no restrictions related to consensual physical contact between a resident and their visitor(s). Pursuant to 408.823 (2)(c) of the Florida Statute in-person visitation is permitted for the following;
  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.

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5. A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was provided by a family member or caregiver.
  6. A resident who used to talk and interact with others, is seldom speaking.
- Residents may visit with members of the clergy at any time subject to the protection of the rights of other residents.
  - Recommended visiting hours are between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm, however visitation is available to accommodate visitors 24-hours per day, there are no time limits set for visits.
  - Unless otherwise permitted by the resident, visitors will be required to wait outside the room or in the lobby while the resident is receiving treatment, undergoing examinations, and/or receiving personal care.
  - The facility reserves the right to require supervised visitation and/or to restrict visitation to a particular time and area of the building in the event of:
    1. A visitor's behavior requires intervention by security or law enforcement personnel
    2. The facility has obtained a judicial restraining order against a visitor
    3. The resident's family member is accused of abuse. (Such restriction will apply until the accused individual has been cleared of such charges)
    4. The facility is receiving casualties or residents during emergency situations.
  - Incidents of a visitor's disruptive behavior must be reported to the supervisor to the Nurse Supervisor and/or Administrator.
  - Space is available in the lobby or other designated area for residents to receive guests in reasonable comfort and privacy.
  - Residents are permitted to visit representatives from federal and state survey agencies, resident advocacy groups, and/or their personal physicians at any time.
  - A resident has the right to withdraw an individual's visiting privileges at any time. Such documentation must be recorded on the care plan and medical records to ensure that all staff is aware of the restrictions.
  - Inquiries concerning visitation and access to the facility should be referred to the Administrator and/or their designee such as the infection preventionist.
  - Staff adherence to this visitation policy and procedure is the responsibility of the Nursing Home Administrator and/or designee such as the infection preventionist.
  - The facility will not restrict, limit, or otherwise deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

**REFERENCES:**

**Code of Federal Regulation §483.10**  
**Veterans Administration LTC Regulations, §51.70**  
**Sections 400.022 and 408.823(2)(c) Florida State Statutes**