

## VISITATION POLICY

On April 26, 2022 Governor Ron DeSantis signed SB 988, the No Patient Left Alone Act, to guarantee Florida families the fundamental right to visit their loved ones receiving care in hospitals, hospices, and long-term care facilities.

The following outlines our In-Person Visitation policy and our general Infection Control Policy and Procedures for visitors.

The Covid-19 pandemic created many challenges to our facility. We are thankful to each resident, family member and staff who stood with us and worked with us through all the hardships of the past 2 years.



## **Visitation Policy**

**Facility Name: Park of the Palms**

**ALF**

**Policy: In person Visitation Policy**

**Exhibit:**

- 1. Florida Law Chapter 2022-34 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No.988**
- 2. Resident Essential Caregiver Designation Form**
- 3. Essential Caregiver Acceptance Form**

**Adoption Date: April 26, 2022**

### **Purpose**

In Person Visitation Bill has been signed into law, creating Chapter 408.823, which is subject “In Person Visitation.” This policy and these procedures are intended to serve as sample for assisted living facilities 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 cueing to eat and drink, stops speaking, or end-of-life. Essential caregivers 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 Park of the Palms, the 2 hour visitation will be between 9:00AM-9:00PM. Park of the Palms 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. Park of the Palms 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. Park of the Palms essential caregiver visitor's policy and procedure is available on Park of the Palms home page.
3. Park of the Palms will designate ALF Manager as key staff to support infection prevention and control training.
4. ALF Manager 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 and the space to accommodate the essential caregiver visitors.
  - 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 POA/Guardian if appropriate will be asked if they want to identify an essential caregiver upon move-in.
6. All new residents will be asked if they would like to identify an Essential Caregiver upon move-in.
7. All residents will be allowed to update as requested the named Essential Caregiver of record within 2 business days of request.
8. Residents are allowed in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient 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 one essential caregiver visitor may be designated per resident.
  11. The policy need NOT prohibit essential caregiver visitor visits, if the specific resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive, or showing symptom of a communicable disease. Visits in these circumstances will likely require a higher level of PPE than standard surgical masks. The general visitation requirement that the facility has no new facility onset cases of a communicable disease (for example COVID 19) is not applicable to visitation by essential caregiver visitors.
  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 Park of the Palms the essential caregiver visitors shall wear the same PPE that staff wear to provide care to the resident.
  13. Any changes to Park of the Palms 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 acknowledgment 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 Park of the Palms 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 Park of the Palms at the time the visitation scheduled is developed and agreed upon.



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

1. Park of the Palms 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. Just as with staff entering the building, if the visitor fails the screening, the visitor CANNOT be allowed entry.
2. Park of the Palms will ensure that the required consents, and training and policy acknowledgements are in place,
3. Park of the Palms will ensure that the caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE if applicable.
4. Park of the Palms will require the essential caregiver to sign in and out on the visitor log.
5. Park of the Palms 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, Park of the Palms 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 Park of the Palms policies and procedures.



## INFECTION CONTROL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR VISITORS

**Policy: Good infection control is designed to provide a safe, sanitary and comfortable environment for our residents and to help prevent the development and transmission of disease and infection. Every effort will be made to keep our residents living in a safe and healthy environment.**

Procedures:

- If visitors are showing any signs of illness they will not be allowed to enter the building
- Visitors and staff will sign in at the front desk (a copy of the Park of the Palms Covid policy is available at the front desk)
- Good hand hygiene can reduce the risk of spreading disease and infection. Hands need to be sanitized upon entry into our facility and before going into a resident's room. Frequent hand sanitizing and washing should be done often while in the facility
- Social distancing helps reduce the risk of spreading disease and infection.
- In the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease all staff and visitors will need to wear PPE (according to CDC guidelines) until the outbreak has passed
- Designated visitation may be necessary during times of illness in the facility
- Regular cleaning and sanitizing help prevent the spread of illness. Common areas, hallways and frequently touched surfaces are regularly cleaned throughout each shift