

# Visitation Policy for ICFs & ALFs

ICFs and ALFs should have received an alert from AHCA yesterday about the Governor signing SB 988 the No Patient Left Alone Act. This Act guarantees Florida families the fundamental right to visit their loved ones who are receiving care in hospitals, hospices, and 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.

SB 988 states health care facilities must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:

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.

Additionally, the bill allows a 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 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.

By May 6th, all Florida ICFs and ALFs must adopt and publicly post their visitation policy in an easily accessible format on the home page of their website. These policies should outline hours for visitation and any health or safety procedures that visitors are subject to. Providers are authorized to request a visitor to agree to the policy and procedures in writing.

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