



Subject: Visitation

Responsibility: Direct Support Staff, Program Managers, Directors

Affected: All Suncoast New Options and Group Home Holdings Residential facilities and Day Programs.

Purpose/Intent: To encourage and facilitate visitation with family and friends of any person that we service while protecting the rights and safety of all persons that we serve.

Policy: Individuals of Suncoast New Options and Group Home Holdings Residential and Day Programs shall adhere to and protect all persons rights and freedoms in reference to in person visitations in accordance with the Bill of Rights of Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service and Florida Statutes FS 408.823

Procedures I:

1. Every facility will have a designated point of entry for visitors.
2. A hand sanitizing station will be available for all visitors in the entry of the facility.
3. A written copy of this policy will be available to all visitors and educational materials on COVID-19 upon request.
4. This policy will be available upon entry of the facility upon request.
5. All visitors who have been exposed or have symptoms of COVID-19 are recommended not to visit until symptoms are resolved for at least 24 hours.
6. Masks are optional unless a person we serve has active symptoms of COVID-19 or the facility has had exposure of COVID-19.
7. There is no limitation on the length of visitation except in the case that it would interfere with the rights of others, such as during sleeping hours.
8. There is no limitation on the number of visitors.
9. The onsite manager in charge will ensure that all staff and visitors are adhering to this policy.

10. The onsite manager in charge will routinely monitor the points of entry and will respond when staff call them in regard to any questions or concerns regarding visitors.
11. A person served 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. Essential caregiver will be addressed in the person's Personal Care Plan/Implementation Plan as well as on the person's facesheet.
12. Under special circumstances such as end of life situations, when persons being served are struggling to adjust to a new situation, during a period of time when there are pending major medical decisions being made, when the person being served is experiencing distress or grief, when the person being served is experiencing the need for extra cueing or encouragement to eat or drink, in the event that the person being served who used to interacting and talking is seldom speaking, the facility will convene an IDT meeting and will make arrangements for visitation that may extend beyond the limits of this policy as needed to accommodate the specific needs of the individuals being served.