

<b>Suncoast Behavioral Health Center</b>  <b>TITLE:</b>  Visitation	<b>Policy Manual:</b> Rights and Ethics
	<b>Policy Number:</b> 442
	<b>Approval Policy Date:</b> 06/2014
	<b>Revision Date:</b> N/A
	<b>Review Date:</b> 1/2017, 1/2019, 4/2021; 5-15-22

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of Suncoast Behavioral Health Center to ensure the rights of all patients receiving care and services. All Patients shall be informed, before care is furnished to the Patient whenever possible, of their visitation rights, and any clinically necessary or reasonable restriction or limitation the Hospital may place on such rights, and the reason for such restriction or limitation.

- Patient Visitation Rights: (1) All Patients (or their Support Person, where appropriate) shall have the right, subject to his or her consent, to receive the visitors whom he or she designates, including, but not limited to, a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same-sex domestic partner), another family member, or a friend, and the Patient (or their Support Person, where appropriate ) shall have the right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time; (2) Patient Visitation Rights shall not be restricted, limited, or otherwise denied on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability; (3) All visitors shall enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with Patient preferences.
- Restrictions on Patient Visitation: The Hospital may impose clinically appropriate limitations on patient visitation when visitation would interfere with the care of the patient, whether the reason for limiting or restricting visitation is infection control, disruptive behavior of visitors, or patient or roommate need for rest or privacy.
- Support Person(s): All Patient shall be given an opportunity to identify a Support Person who may be a family member, friend, or other individual who supports the patient during his or her hospital stay, and may exercise the Patient’s visitation rights in the event the Patient is incapacitated or otherwise unable to do so. A Support Person may or may not be the same person who would make decisions regarding medical treatment in the event of the Patient’s incapacity. A Support Person may be identified by the Patient verbally or in writing.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The Intake Specialist shall inform the patient/support person/legal representative of the patient’s visitation right.

2. The patient/support person/legal representative shall acknowledge understanding of the visitation by signing the Patient's Acknowledgement form.
3. In the event the patient is unable to sign the acknowledgement and there is not legal representative/support person present, the Intake Specialist shall notify the admitting nurse.
4. Once the patient is determined to be in an improved state or the legal representative/support person is available, the unit nurse shall explain the patient visitation right and obtain a signature as evidence of understanding.
5. The Intake Specialist shall document the identity of a Support Person/legal representative selected by a patient shall be recorded on the intake assessment form.

<p style="text-align: center;">0101</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Suncoast Behavioral Health Center Residential Treatment Program</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TITLE: VISITATION</b></p>	<b>Policy Manual:</b> Ethics
	<b>Policy Number:</b> RRE 017
	<b>Original/Approval Policy Date:</b> 5-15-22
	<b>Last Revision Date:</b>
	<b>Last Review Date:</b>

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of Suncoast Behavioral Health Center to respect patients’ right to receive visitors in private and understands that this right can only be limited on an individual basis by a physician for reasons of psychiatric necessity or security Suncoast Behavioral Health Center shall not impose rigid or restrictive visiting hours or policies that restrict parents/legal guardians from visiting the patient.

Visitors will be permitted during unit-specified visiting hours. The designated times can be found in the patient and family handbook. Visitation occurs in the classrooms, cafeteria, gymnasium, or treatment team room. Individualized visitation times will also be made available to accommodate families with special needs or who may be shift workers.

**PROCEDURE:**

- 1.0 Visitors shall provide the patient’s identification number to the receptionist or unit staff, who notifies the unit of their arrival and has visitors sign in on the confidentiality log. All visitors must be on the approved communication list.
- 2.0 Staff will escort visitors to the visitation area and, when visitation is completed, back to the lobby.
- 3.0 Nursing staff will document the visit in the patient's chart.
- 4.0 All visitors will be appropriately dressed, leave handbags in their car and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.
- 5.0 If there is a restriction in place regarding visitation, the physician fully explains to the patient and their parent/legal guardian the reason(s) for the restriction, completes a Communication Restriction Form and writes the order for the restriction.
- 6.0 The restriction shall be reviewed at least every 7 days for renewal, or the order is

immediately expired.

7.0 Visitors are not to be searched under any circumstances; however, will be asked to leave purses, etc. in their car.

8.0 A patient's right to contact an attorney or an attorney's right to contact a patient may not be limited.

9.0 Visiting times are as follows:

Wednesday, Thursday: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Holidays: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Therapist may approve visiting times outside usual hours to accommodate any special circumstances.

10.0 Visitors that are under the age of 13 must be approved by the therapist and the patient's physician. The visit must occur outside the clinical unit area.

11.0 All minors who visit, ages 17 or younger, must visit the patient in the presence of the parent/legal guardian/or adult visitor. Exception to above by physician order only.

12.0 Suncoast Behavioral Health Center is able to restrict/cancel visitation in accordance with CDC and infection control recommendations. In this event Suncoast Behavioral Health Center will notify the family/guardian of the visit restrictions.

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Issue Date:	5/15/22	Approved by:	Medical Executive Committee
Review Dates:			
Revision Dates:			

**I. Purpose**

To ensure that all special visitation provisions in Florida for all F.S. 395 facilities are observed and complied with.

**II. Definitions**

None

**III. Policy**

It is the policy of Suncoast Behavioral Health Center to ensure the rights of all patients receiving care and services.

Infection Control Policy covers infection control and education policies for visitors; screening, personal protective equipment, and other infection control protocols for visitors.

This policy ensures permissible length of visits and numbers of visitors, which must meet or exceed the standards in ss. 400.022(1)(b).

Our organization ensures designation of a person responsible for ensuring that staff adhere to the policies and procedures.

Safety-related policies and procedures may not be more stringent than those established for the provider's staff and may not require visitors to submit proof of any vaccination or immunization.

The policies and procedures allow consensual physical contact between a resident, client, or patient and the visitor where safe and clinically appropriate.

Within 24 hours after establishing the policies and procedures required under this section, providers must make such policies and procedures easily accessible from the homepage of their websites

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#### IV. Procedure

With a physician order and where applicable, the above and following will always be observed:

Essential caregiver: A resident, client, or patient 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. This section does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident, client, or patient of a provider, and providers may not require an essential caregiver to provide such care.

- The Intake Specialist shall inform the patient/support person/legal representative of the patient's visitation right.
- The patient/support person/legal representative shall acknowledge understanding of the visitation by signing the Patient's Acknowledgement form.
- In the event the patient is unable to sign the acknowledgement and there is not legal representative/support person present, the Intake Specialist shall notify the admitting nurse.
- Once the patient is determined to be in an improved state or the legal representative/support person is available, the unit nurse shall explain the patient visitation right and obtain a signature as evidence of understanding.
- The Intake Specialist shall document the identity of a Support Person/legal representative selected by a patient shall be recorded on the intake assessment form.
- The policies and procedures may require a visitor to agree in writing to follow the provider's policies and procedures. A provider may suspend in-person visitation of a specific visitor if the visitor violates the provider's policies and procedures.

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These standards apply by law in the following circumstances in Hospitals:

1. End-of-life situations.
2. 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.
3. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
4. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
5. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
6. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
7. For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery.
8. Pediatric patients.

**V. Documentation**

Patient's Acknowledgement form

**VI. References**

408.823, F.S