

FACILITY NAME: Riverside Cottages @ The Shores, LLC
POLICY: In Person Visitation Policy
A) Florida Law Chapter 2022-34 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 988
B) Resident Essential Caregiver Designation Form
C) Essential Caregiver Acceptance Form
APPROVED BY: Anne Guenther, Executive Director/Administrator
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2023

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 Riverside Cottages @ The Shores, LLC (“Riverside Cottages” for the remainder of the document) compliance 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 Caregiver visitors 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 caregiver visitors may be allowed entry into Riverside Cottages without limitations for these specific purposes. Riverside Cottages will allow at a minimum in-person visitation for at least 2-hours daily in addition to what is offered to all other visitors. At Riverside Cottages, these hours will be between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Exceptions, if requested, will be discussed and agreed upon in writing by the facility’s designee and the resident’s responsible party.

All designated Essential Caregiver visitors and all staff will be required to meet with the Wellness Director or designee to review the facility’s infection control policies and education policies regarding In-Person visitation. The Wellness Director or designee will monitor both the essential caregiver visitors and staff adhere to the policies and procedures. Infection control signs will be posted at all entry points and throughout the facility as education to all visitors and staff. Infection Control handouts will be available upon request.

Procedures:

I. For designation and utilization of essential caregiver visitors.

1. Riverside Cottages 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. Riverside Cottages essential caregiver visitor’s policy and procedure is available on Riverside Cottages website at www.riversidecottagesalf.com homepage.

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3. Riverside Cottages will designate the Wellness & Education Director or designee as key staff to support infection prevention and control training. Infection Control signs will be posted at all entry points and throughout the facility as education to all visitors and staff. Infection Control handouts will be available upon request.
 4. Riverside Cottages will not limit the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at any given time and staff will monitor 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.
 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.

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9. Maintain a visitor log for signing in and out for all Essential Caregiver Visitors. Infection Control documents will be included in the logbook and handouts will be available upon request.
10. The number of Essential caregiver visitor is not limited and may be designated by the resident or DPOA/Guardian.
11. The policy need NOT prohibit essential caregiver visitor visits, if the specific resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive, or showing symptoms 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 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 guidance for healthcare workers. At Riverside Cottages the essential caregiver visitors shall wear the same PPE that staff wear to provide care or services to the resident.
13. Any changes to Riverside Cottages' essential caregiver visitor policies must be promptly communicated to affected residents and essential caregiver visitors.
14. At no time will Riverside Cottages require essential caregiver visitors, staff or any visitor to submit proof of vaccination and/or immunization status.
15. Consensual physical contact visits are allowed between a resident and visitor.

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 acknowledgement 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 Riverside Cottages at The Shore infection prevention and control including the use of PPE, use of masks, and hand sanitation.
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.

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4. Essential caregiver visits may take place in the resident's room or a designated area determined by Riverside Cottages at The Shores Administrator or designee at the time the visitation.

III. When an essential caregiver visits, the facility will:

1. Riverside Cottages will screen visitors per CDC guidelines and has adopted those changes as part of the facility's infection control policy and procedure. The CDC recommends the use of passive screening techniques, such as signage describing the symptoms of communicable diseases and advising against entering the health care setting should the staff member or visitor experience symptoms or exposure but does NOT limit access. Riverside Cottages has signage posted and the Wellness director or designee educate staff and visitors of the infection control policy and changes when they occur.
2. Riverside Cottages will ensure that the required consents, and training and infection control and visitation policy acknowledgements are in place.
3. Riverside Cottages will ensure that the caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE if applicable.
4. Riverside Cottages will require the essential caregiver visitor to sign in and out on the visitor log.
5. Riverside Cottages will monitor the essential caregiver visitor's adherence to policies and procedures.
6. The Wellness Director or designee of Riverside Cottages will monitor the staff's adherence to policies and procedures.
7. If the essential caregiver visitor fails to follow the facility's infection prevention and control requirements, after attempts to mitigate concerns, Riverside Cottages shall restrict or revoke visitation.
8. 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 Riverside Cottages policies and procedures.

Exhibit A:

CHAPTER 2022-34

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 988

An act relating to in-person visitation; providing a short title; creating s. 408.823, F.S.; providing applicability; requiring certain providers to establish visitation policies and procedures within a specified timeframe; providing requirements for such policies and procedures; authorizing the resident, client, or patient to designate an essential caregiver; establishing requirements related to essential caregivers; requiring in-person visitation in certain circumstances; providing that the policies and procedures may require visitors to agree in writing to follow such policies and procedures; authorizing providers to suspend in-person visitation of specific visitors under certain circumstances; requiring providers to provide their policies and procedures to the Agency for Health Care Administration at specified times; requiring providers to make their policies and procedures available to the agency for review at any time, upon request; requiring providers to make their policies and procedures easily accessible from the homepage of their websites within a specified timeframe; requiring the agency to dedicate a stand-alone page on its website for specified purposes; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “No Patient Left Alone Act.”

Section 2. Section 408.823, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

408.823 In-person visitation.—

(1) This section applies to developmental disabilities centers as defined in s. 393.063, hospitals licensed under chapter 395, nursing home facilities licensed under part II of chapter 400, hospice facilities licensed under part IV of chapter 400, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled licensed and certified under part VIII of chapter 400, and assisted living facilities licensed under part I of chapter 429.

(2)(a) No later than 30 days after the effective date of this act, each provider shall establish visitation policies and procedures. The policies and procedures must, at a minimum, include infection control and education policies for visitors; screening, personal protective equipment, and other infection control protocols for visitors; permissible length of visits and numbers of visitors, which must meet or exceed the standards in ss. 400.022(1)(b) and 429.28(1)(d), as applicable; and 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 must allow consensual physical contact between a resident, client, or patient and the visitor.

(b) 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.

(c) The visitation policies and procedures required by this section must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:

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.

(d) 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.

(e) The providers shall provide their visitation policies and procedures to the agency when applying for initial licensure, licensure renewal, or change of ownership. The provider must make the visitation policies and procedures available to the agency for review at any time, upon request.

(f) 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.

(3) The agency shall dedicate a stand-alone page on its website to explain the visitation requirements of this section and provide a link to the agency's webpage to report complaints.

Section 3. The Division of Law Revision is directed to replace the phrase "30 days after the effective date of this act" wherever it occurs in this act with the date 30 days after this act becomes a law.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2022.

**Exhibit B:
Essential Caregivers Designation**

I, _____ designate _____ as essential caregiver for _____.

In making this designation, I consent and understand that:

- Visits by essential caregivers are subject to Riverside Cottages @ The Shores, LLC's policies and procedures.
- All essential caregiver visits will be set for a minimum of 2 hours daily above what all other visitors are allowed.
- Essential caregivers will need to follow the facility's infection control and education policies and procedures and agree to such. At no time will they be more stringent than those for staff and at no time require to submit proof of vaccination.
- Essential caregivers must sign an acknowledgement of completion of required training and adherence to infection prevention and control policies.
- Visits by a specific essential caregiver may be suspended for failure to follow infection prevention and control requirements or other related rules of Riverside Cottages. At that time the resident or resident's representative can designate a new essential caregiver.

Resident or Legal Representative Signature

Date

Resident or Legal Representative Printed Name

Date

Facility Representative Signature

Date

Facility Representative Printed Name

**Exhibit C:
Essential Caregivers Acknowledgement**

I, _____ accept the designation as an essential caregiver for
_____, I understand that:

- My visits as an essential caregiver are subject to Riverside Cottages @ The Shores, LLC’s infection control and education policies and procedures. I acknowledge receiving the policies and procedures and agree to abide by them at all times.
- My visits as an essential caregiver will be no less than two hours per day in addition to what is offered to all other visitors.
- Essential caregiver visits cannot occur if the resident personally objects/declines your visit no matter the circumstance per 408.823 of F.S.

“(c) The visitation policies and procedures required by this section must allow in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:

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

- When visiting as an essential caregiver, I will utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) as determined by facility policies and procedures related to current facility status and current medical condition of the resident I am visiting.
- I acknowledge having received training on infection prevention and control, use of PPE, use of masks, and hand sanitation. I am satisfied with the training provided and do not have any questions regarding any of these topics.
- I acknowledge my obligation and agree to **immediately** notify the Riverside Cottages Administrator if I experience symptoms of a respiratory infection, cough, fever, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, chills, headache, muscle pain, repeated shaking with chills, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, symptoms possibly related to a contagious infection.
- Visits by essential caregivers may be restricted or revoked for failure to follow infection prevention and control procedures of Riverside Cottages.

Designated Essential Caregiver Signature

Date

Designated Essential Caregiver Printed Name

Facility Representative Signature

Date

Facility Representative Printed Name