



Manatee River Assisted Living Visitation Policy

Facility	Manatee River Assisted Living	License	AL11283
-----------------	-------------------------------	----------------	---------

Purpose and policy

Manatee River Assisted Living supports each resident's right to receive visitors while protecting the safety, privacy, dignity, health care needs, and peaceful enjoyment of all residents. Visitation is permitted in accordance with Florida law and is subject to the reasonable safety, privacy, infection-control, and visitor-conduct requirements in this policy. Restrictions will be individualized, based on documented circumstances, and will not be used to retaliate against a resident or visitor for raising a concern or grievance. This document provides the Community, Residents, and Staff with guidance for all in-person visitation, in accordance with Section 408.823, Florida Statutes; also known as the "No Patient Left Alone Act."

Availability of Policy:

The "Manatee River Assisted Living" Visitation Policy & Procedures" is available on the community's website at: www.mralwecare.com

Designation of Responsible Person:

The Community will designate the Administrator as the person responsible for ensuring staff adherence to the Visitation Policy and Procedures for Manatee River Assisted Living.

1 Visitation rights and hours

- Residents may receive visitors of their choosing between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. at a minimum, unless the resident objects.
- Upon request, the facility will make reasonable provisions for extended visiting hours for caregivers, out-of-town guests, end-of-life situations, and similar circumstances.
- Advance scheduling is generally not required. Management may coordinate the location or timing of a visit when reasonably necessary to protect privacy, comply with a resident's wishes, manage an emergency, or address a documented safety or infection-control concern.
- The number of visitors in a room or area may be managed reasonably based on room capacity, fire safety, the resident's preference, roommate rights, infection-control needs, and safe facility operations, without reducing visitation below legal requirements.
- Consensual physical contact between a resident and visitor is permitted.

2 Required in-person visitation circumstances

Unless the resident objects, in-person visitation will be allowed in each applicable circumstance below:

- End-of-life situations.
- A resident who previously lived with family is struggling with the transition to the facility or lacks in-person family support.
- A resident is making one or more major medical decisions.

- A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving a recent loss.
- A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink that was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
- A resident who previously talked and interacted with others is seldom speaking.

3 Essential caregivers

- A resident may designate a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver.
- The essential caregiver will be permitted in-person visitation for at least two hours daily in addition to other authorized visitation.
- The facility will not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to the resident.
- An essential caregiver remains subject to this policy. A specific visitor may be restricted or suspended for documented policy violations as permitted by law.

4 Infection prevention and health screening

- Visitors will receive education concerning signs and symptoms of communicable illness, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, applicable personal protective equipment, and any current outbreak precautions.
- Visitors must follow the same applicable screening and infection-control requirements imposed on facility staff. Visitor requirements will not be more stringent than staff requirements.
- Visitors who are ill, have a fever, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, or symptoms of a communicable illness should postpone nonurgent visits and notify facility staff. When visitation must proceed, staff will explain applicable precautions.
- Testing, vaccination, or proof of vaccination will not be required as a condition of visitation.
- The facility may make appropriate personal protective equipment available when supplies permit but will not require a visitor to use precautions that are more stringent than those required of staff in comparable circumstances.
- High-touch visitation areas will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the facility's infection-control procedures.

5 Visitor safety conduct and resident privacy

Every visitor must comply with the following requirements:

- 1. Authorized visitation areas.** Visit only the resident who authorized the visit. Do not enter another resident's room unless that resident invites the visitor and facility staff authorize entry.
- 2. Resident privacy.** Protect resident confidentiality. Do not photograph, record, question, or obtain information about another resident without appropriate authorization.
- 3. Restricted areas.** Do not enter the kitchen, medication room, staff work areas, storage areas, or other restricted areas without staff authorization.
- 4. Staff directions.** Follow reasonable staff directions concerning resident safety, privacy, infection control, emergency procedures, and facility operations.
- 5. Noninterference.** Do not obstruct care, remove facility records or supplies, interfere with staff duties, or direct another resident's care.
- 6. Respectful behavior.** Do not threaten, intimidate, harass, abuse, or create a substantial disturbance affecting residents, visitors, or staff.
- 7. Emergency safety.** Do not bring weapons, illegal substances, or other items that create a safety risk into the facility.

6 Food service swallowing and choking precautions

Residents may have physician-ordered diets, food allergies, texture-modified meals, thickened-liquid requirements, swallowing difficulties, or choking precautions. To protect residents:

- Visitors may not remove, exchange, carry, distribute, or serve meal trays, food, or beverages intended for another resident.
- Visitors may not feed or assist another resident with eating or drinking.
- Visitors may not take food from another resident's room, a meal cart, the kitchen, or a staff service area.
- A visitor may cue or encourage the visitor's own family member to eat or drink when consistent with the resident's care plan and staff instructions.
- Hands-on feeding or drinking assistance for the visitor's own family member may occur only after staff confirms applicable dietary and swallowing precautions and authorizes the assistance.
- Only authorized staff may distribute resident meals, substitute food, change a prescribed diet, or determine whether food is safe for a resident.

7 Personal care medication and transfers

Visitors are not required to provide necessary resident care. A visitor may not administer or assist with medications, perform transfers, provide hands-on personal care, use facility medical equipment, or perform another health-related service unless the activity is permitted by law, consistent with the resident's care plan, and specifically authorized by the facility.

8 Visitor acknowledgment

The facility may require a visitor to review and sign an acknowledgment agreeing to follow this policy. A signature confirms receipt and understanding; it is not an admission of wrongdoing. If a visitor declines to sign, two staff members will document the date and time the policy was presented, that a copy was offered, and that the visitor declined to sign. Applicable safety requirements remain in effect.

9 Response to violations

The facility will consider the seriousness, immediacy, frequency, and documented circumstances of the conduct. When appropriate, management may use one or more of the following responses:

- Education or a verbal reminder.
- A written warning and signed acknowledgment request.
- A requirement that visits occur in a designated area or under staff supervision.
- Ending the current visit.
- Temporary suspension of in-person visitation by the specific visitor.
- Continued suspension when documented conduct presents an ongoing risk, subject to periodic management review.

Management may end a visit or suspend a specific visitor immediately when conduct creates an imminent risk of choking, injury, abuse, neglect, exploitation, privacy violation, or other harm. The facility will document the violation, action taken, reason, duration or review date, and conditions for reinstatement. Restrictions will be limited to the specific visitor and will not eliminate the resident's lawful visitation rights with compliant visitors.

A visitor whose visit has been ended must leave the premises when directed. If the visitor refuses to leave or creates an immediate safety threat, the facility may contact law enforcement. Staff should not physically remove the visitor except as necessary to respond to an immediate emergency.

10 Outbreak and emergency visitation

During an outbreak or public-health emergency, visitation will continue as required by law. The facility may educate visitors about the risk, designate appropriate visitation locations, and apply lawful infection-control

precautions that are no more stringent than those applied to staff. The facility may consult public-health authorities and will use the least restrictive measures reasonably available.

11 Administration posting and review

- The Administrator or designee is responsible for ensuring that staff follow this policy and for reviewing visitor restrictions or suspensions.
- The current policy will be easily accessible from the homepage of the facility's website within 24 hours after it is established or revised.
- The facility will provide this policy to the Agency for Health Care Administration with initial licensure, license renewal, or change of ownership and will make it available to the agency upon request.
- A printed copy will be maintained at the facility and provided to residents, representatives, and visitors upon request.
- The policy will be reviewed at least annually and when applicable law or agency guidance changes.

12 Questions and complaints

Questions about this policy may be directed to the Administrator at 941-721-0426.

- Florida Agency for Health Care Administration visitation complaints: 1-888-419-3456.
- Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program: 1-888-831-0404.

References

- Section 408.823, Florida Statutes, In-person visitation.
- Section 429.28, Florida Statutes, Resident bill of rights.
- Applicable infection-control and emergency guidance in effect at the time of the visit.