

Hawthorn House Assisted Living Facility Visitation Policy

Purpose: In-Person Visitation bill has been signed into law, creating Section 408.823, Florida Statutes titled In-person visitation, and may be cited as “No Patient Left Alone Act.”

Hawthorn House developed the following policy based on this new requirement. Hawthorn House will provide the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) with a copy of the facility’s visitation’s policy and procedure, with the initial licensure application, renewal application and/or change of ownership application. Hawthorn House will make the visitation policies and procedures available to the agency for review at any time, upon request. The Visitation Policy and procedure is available on the main website at: <https://www.hawthornhouse.us>.

Hawthorn House will designate the Quality Manager as the person responsible for ensuring staff adhere to the policies and procedures.

Safety-related policies and procedures are not more stringent than those established for the provider’s staff and the visitor is not required to provide proof of any vaccination or immunization. This policy and procedures allow consensual physical contact between a resident and the visitor.

Hawthorn House recognizes residents may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian or other individual as an essential caregiver. Hawthorn House will allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized. Hawthorn House does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident. The designated essential caregiver will be documented in the resident’s electronic medical record and updated upon the resident’s request.

Residents are allowed in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:

- a) End-of-life situations.
- b) A Resident 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 is making one or more major medical decisions.
- d) A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
- e) A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
- f) A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.

Hawthorn House has no limit on the number of visitors per resident. Hawthorn House may limit the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at any given time based on the ability of staff to safely screen and monitor, the space to accommodate the visitors, and adherence to the infection control protocols of physical distancing.

Visitation location:

- a) Residents' private apartments.
- b) Multi-purpose room or Conference room is available, pre-arrangement is requested.
- c) Outdoor space is available on the Bluebell and Azalea Patio. Patios have covered areas, that are protected from heat and sun. Cooling and heating devices are available if needed.

Visitor's schedule:

Hawthorn House welcomes visitors at any time. General visiting hours are between 0800-2100. After 2000 visitors will utilize facility doorbell to coordinate with staff for access. There is no limitation on the visitation length.

Visitation Screening:

Hawthorn House will screen the visitor per the facility's infection control policy and procedure via Accushield and will document the name of the individual, and the date and time of entry. Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19 or currently meet the criteria for quarantine should not enter Hawthorn House.

Infection Control Policies:

Visitors must adhere to appropriate guidelines based on the current Infection Control Policy.

Infection Control Education for Visitors:

Visitors will be provided education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms and Hawthorn House's infection control precautions.

This policy does not prohibit visits, if the specific resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive, or showing symptoms of a communicable disease. Visits in these circumstances will require a higher level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) than standard masks. PPE will be provided to the visitor. The PPE required must be consistent with the most recent CDC guidance for healthcare workers.

Hawthorn House does not require visitors to agree in writing to follow the visitation policies and procedures. However, if the visitor has violated the policies and procedures, Hawthorn House may suspend in-person visitation for the specific individual.