

**Residential Plaza at Blue Lagoon (Residential Plaza)**  
**Emergency In-Person Visitation**  
**Policy and Procedures**  
**Adoption Date: 5/6/2022**

**Exhibit:**

- A) Florida Law Chapter 2022-34 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No.988
- B) Resident Essential Caregiver Designation Form
- C) Essential Caregiver Acceptance Form

**Purpose**

This policy and procedures are intended to serve as guidance for Residential Plaza to comply with the regulations set forth in Chapter 408.823, Florida Statutes, in reference to “In-Person Visitation during Emergency situations”. 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 Caregivers 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 facilities on a limited basis for these specific purposes. Residential Plaza will allow one essential caregiver for at least 2-hours daily under these circumstances. At Residential Plaza the 2-hour visitation will be between 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Residential Plaza may make exceptions to the 2-hour visitation on a case-by-case basis for end-of-life residents. These exceptions will be discussed and agreed upon in writing by the facility’s designee and the resident’s responsible party.

**Procedures:**

- I. For designation and utilization of essential caregiver visitors.
  - 1. Residential Plaza 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. Residential Plaza’s Emergency In-Person Visitation policy and procedures is available on Residential Plaza’s homepage ([www.residentialplaza.com](http://www.residentialplaza.com)).
  - 3. Residential Plaza designates Yolanda Diaz as key staff to support infection prevention and control training.

4. Residential Plaza will allow one essential caregiver for resident in emergency situations, based on the ability of staff to safely screen and monitor and the space to accommodate the essential caregiver visitors.
  - i. Identify locations for visitation/care to occur planning for residents in shared spaces and facilities with minimal common space to identify maximum time availability.
  - ii. 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
  - iii. 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 to identify an Essential Caregiver.
6. All new residents will be asked 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:
  - i. End-of-life situations.
  - ii. A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the Residential Plaza is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
  - iii. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
  - iv. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
  - v. A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
  - vi. A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
9. Maintain a visitor log for signing in and out.
10. No more than one essential caregiver visitor may be designated per resident.
11. Residential Plaza will 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 (for example COVID-19) is not applicable to visitation by essential caregiver visitors.
12. Residential Plaza is not required to provide for "facility-provided" COVID-19 testing if, and only if, it is based on the most recent CDC and FDA guidance. The cost of this testing cannot be passed on to the visitor.
13. 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 Residential Plaza the

essential caregiver visitors shall wear the same PPE that staff wear to provide care or services to the resident.

14. Any changes to Residential Plaza's essential caregiver visitor policies must be promptly communicated to residents and essential caregiver visitors.
- 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 Residential Plaza's webpage infection prevention and control including the use of PPE, use of masks, hand sanitation, and social distancing.
  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.
  4. Essential caregiver visits may take place in the resident's room or a designated area determined by Residential Plaza at the time the visitation scheduled is developed and agreed upon.
- III. When an essential caregiver visitor is scheduled to visit, the facility will:
1. Residential Plaza will thoroughly screen the visitor per the facility's infection control policy and procedure and document the name of the individual, the date and time of entry, and the screening mechanism used, along with the screening employee's name and signature. Just as with staff entering the building, if the visitor fails the screening, the visitor CANNOT be allowed entry.
  2. Residential Plaza will ensure that the required consents, and training and policy acknowledgements are in place.
  3. Residential Plaza will ensure that the caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE if applicable.
  4. Residential Plaza will require the essential caregiver visitor to sign in and out on the visitor log.
  5. Residential Plaza will monitor the essential caregiver visitor's adherence to policies and procedures.
  6. If the essential caregiver visitor fails to follow the facility's infection prevention and control requirements, after attempts to mitigate concerns, Residential Plaza shall restrict or revoke visitation.
  7. 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 Residential Plaza's policies and procedures.