Emma's Creek A.L.F
A PREFERRED HOME AWAY FROM HOME

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VISITATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all residents of Emma's Creek Assisted Living Facility are afforded their legal right to receive visitors and maintain meaningful contact with family members, friends, guardians, and other individuals of their choosing.

Emma's Creek ALF recognizes the importance of visitation in promoting residents' emotional, physical, and social well-being. The facility will protect each resident's right to in-person visitation in accordance with Florida Statute 408.823.

II. DESIGNATED PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR VISITATION COMPLIANCE

Keirsten Sanders, Administrator/Owner, is designated as the person responsible for ensuring that all facility staff adhere to the visitation policies and procedures.

The designated person is responsible for:

1. Ensuring all staff members are informed of and follow the facility's visitation policy.
2. Ensuring residents and their representatives are aware of their visitation rights.
3. Ensuring visitors are provided with applicable infection-control education and instructions.
4. Monitoring staff compliance with visitation procedures.
5. Addressing and resolving visitation concerns or complaints.
6. Ensuring residents are not improperly denied or restricted from receiving visitors.
7. Reviewing and updating visitation policies and procedures as necessary to maintain compliance with applicable Florida laws and regulations.

All employees are responsible for following this policy and immediately reporting any visitation concerns or violations to the Administrator.

III. RESIDENT RIGHTS AND GENERAL VISITATION

Emma's Creek ALF recognizes and protects each resident's right to receive visitors of their choosing.

1. Residents may receive visitors during reasonable visiting hours, generally between **9:00 AM and 9:00 PM**. Arrangements may be made for visits outside these hours when circumstances warrant, including end-of-life situations, emergencies, or other special needs.
2. Visitation will not be limited to an arbitrary number of visitors or a predetermined four-hour visitation period.
3. The facility will make reasonable accommodations for residents who wish to receive family members, friends, guardians, or other designated visitors.

4. Residents may refuse visitation or request that a visitor leave at any time.
5. Residents have the right to consensual physical contact with visitors, including holding hands, hugging, and other appropriate physical contact.
6. Proof of vaccination or immunization will never be required as a condition of visitation.
7. Visitors will not be subjected to safety-related requirements that are more stringent than those established for facility staff.
8. Visitation restrictions will not be imposed for convenience or staffing purposes.

IV. ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER DESIGNATION

In accordance with Florida Statute 408.823, each resident has the right to designate a visitor as an Essential Caregiver.

1. An Essential Caregiver may be a family member, friend, guardian, or another individual selected by the resident.
2. The facility will allow the designated Essential Caregiver in-person visitation for a minimum of **two (2) hours daily**, in addition to any other visitation authorized by the facility.
3. The resident may identify or change their designated Essential Caregiver.
4. The facility will document the resident's Essential Caregiver designation in the resident's record.
5. An Essential Caregiver is not required to provide personal care, assistance with activities of daily living, or other necessary services to the resident.
6. The facility will not require an Essential Caregiver to perform duties normally provided by facility staff.

V. REQUIRED VISITATION CIRCUMSTANCES

Unless the resident objects, Emma's Creek ALF will allow in-person visitation under the following circumstances:

1. **End-of-Life Situations:** When a resident is approaching the end of life, visitation will be accommodated to allow family members and loved ones to spend meaningful time with the resident. Reasonable accommodations will be made for extended visitation, including visits outside regular visiting hours.
2. **Difficulty Adjusting to the Facility:** When a resident previously lived with family before admission and is struggling with the transition to the facility or the lack of in-person family support.
3. **Major Medical Decisions:** When a resident is making one or more major medical decisions and needs family or designated support present.
4. **Emotional Distress or Grieving:** When a resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the recent loss of a friend or family member.

5. **Assistance with Eating or Drinking:** When a resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink that was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
6. **Social Withdrawal:** When a resident who previously communicated and interacted with others is now speaking less frequently or has become socially withdrawn.

The facility will make reasonable efforts to accommodate visitation in these circumstances and will not impose unnecessary restrictions.

VI. VISITOR SCREENING AND INFECTION CONTROL

Emma's Creek ALF will maintain reasonable infection-control procedures to protect residents, visitors, and staff.

Visitors may be required to follow applicable infection-control procedures, including:

1. Completing applicable health screening upon entry, consistent with facility staff screening requirements.
2. Following handwashing and hand-sanitizing procedures.
3. Receiving education regarding infection prevention, hand hygiene, appropriate distancing when indicated, and prevention of cross-contamination.
4. Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, gowns, or gloves, when indicated by the applicable infection-control requirements.
5. Following any additional precautions required when visiting a resident in an area with an identified infection-control risk.

Visitors entering an area requiring additional precautions will be educated on the appropriate use of PPE before entering.

Infection-control requirements will be applied consistently and will not be more restrictive than those established for facility staff.

VII. VISITOR SIGN-IN AND IDENTIFICATION

1. All visitors will be asked to sign the facility visitor log upon arrival.
2. Visitors may be asked to provide appropriate identification.
3. The visitor log will document the visitor's name, resident being visited, date, and time of arrival and departure.
4. Visitors will be informed of applicable visitation and infection-control procedures.
5. Visitors may be asked to acknowledge in writing that they have received and agree to follow the facility's visitation policy.

VIII. VISITATION DURING INFECTION-CONTROL EVENTS

If a resident or designated area requires additional infection-control precautions, the facility will implement appropriate measures to reduce the risk of transmission.

The facility will:

1. Notify visitors of applicable infection-control precautions.
2. Provide education regarding appropriate PPE and infection prevention.
3. Implement screening and protective measures consistent with those required of facility staff.
4. Make reasonable arrangements to preserve in-person visitation.
5. Continue to recognize residents' visitation rights, including visitation during end-of-life situations and other circumstances protected under Florida law.

Any necessary visitor-specific restrictions will be based on legitimate safety or infection-control concerns and will be handled in accordance with applicable law.

IX. VISITOR NONCOMPLIANCE

Visitors are expected to follow reasonable facility visitation and infection-control procedures.

If a visitor fails to follow established procedures:

1. Staff will explain the applicable policy and request voluntary compliance.
2. The Administrator will be notified of repeated or significant violations.
3. The Administrator may review the circumstances and determine whether a visitor-specific suspension of in-person visitation is necessary.
4. Any suspension will be limited to the specific visitor involved and will be based on the visitor's violation of facility policies and procedures.
5. The resident's visitation rights and access to other visitors will remain protected.

X. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

All facility employees are responsible for:

1. Respecting residents' rights to receive visitors.
2. Providing visitors with appropriate directions regarding visitation and infection control.
3. Avoiding unnecessary interference with resident visitation.
4. Immediately notifying the Administrator of visitation concerns or complaints.
5. Assisting residents with reasonable visitation accommodations.
6. Following this policy during all shifts, including weekends and holidays.

No employee may independently establish additional visitation restrictions that conflict with this policy or applicable Florida law.

XI. POLICY AVAILABILITY AND REVIEW

This policy will be maintained at Emma's Creek ALF and made available to residents, resident representatives, visitors, and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) upon request.

The facility will provide this policy to AHCA when required for initial licensure, licensure renewal, or change of ownership.

If the facility maintains a website, the visitation policy will be made easily accessible from the website's homepage within the timeframe required by Florida Statute 408.823.

The Administrator will review and update this policy as necessary to ensure continued compliance with applicable state laws and regulations.

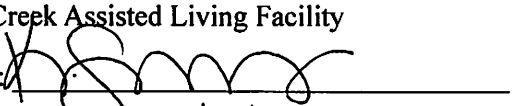
XII. REGULATORY AUTHORITY

This policy is established in accordance with:

- Florida Statute 408.823 – In-Person Visitation.
- Florida Statute 429.28 – Resident Rights.
- Applicable Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) requirements.

DESIGNATED PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR STAFF ADHERENCE:

Keirsten Sanders
Administrator/Owner
Emma's Creek Assisted Living Facility

Signature: 

Date: 11/2/2026