



TITLE: Patient Visitation

SCOPE

This policy applies to all patient's loved ones, family members, friends, guardians, etc that present for visitation at River Point.

PURPOSE

- A. To ensure visitation rights are given to all clients/patients and that discrimination does not occur.

POLICY

The facility does not restrict or deny visitation privileges on the bases of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. All patients (or their Support Person, where appropriate) shall have the right, subject to his or her consent, to receive the visitors whom he or she designates, including, family members or friends, and the Patient (or their Support Person, where appropriate) shall have the right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time. Visitation is encouraged to help support client/patient during their recovery. The facility ensures that all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient preferences. Best times for visitation are specific to each program and scheduled around group therapy. Children under age 12 are not permitted during visitation. Visitation with children under the age of 12 can be coordinated with the therapist. Visitation may be denied to visitors that are intoxicated or disruptive to the milieu. Visitors must bring patient identification number (PIN) but may not bring their personal belongings into the facility during visitation.

It is the policy of River Point that patients after discharge not return to the facility to visit or phone patients in active treatment. This includes patients in active treatment for any level of service, In-patient or Outpatient. Post discharge patients should not visit for at least six (6) months. However, exceptions may be made when it is determined that the visit is legally and/or therapeutically appropriate (e.g., guardianship/legal representation, family). The facility does not restrict or deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.



Visitors to River Point are required to comply with the following facility health and safety processes which include:

1. Personal belongings are not permitted inside the facility including but not limited to purses, back-packs, waist packs, etc.
2. Visitors agree to metal detector wand upon entry to the facility. If the metal detector indicates metal present- visitors must reveal metal object at the location of the signal. Failure to comply will result in termination of the visit and the visitor will be asked to leave the facility.
3. Absolutely nothing will be handed to the patients during visitation- anything brought into the facility by visitors for patients (such as clothes, cards, etc) must be given to a staff member to undergo a contraband search based on facility policy. Contraband items are prohibited at River Point and all contraband items will be returned to the visitor to take home. Please reference Addendum A for common contraband items.

River Point's General Visitation Schedule*: (all visitations will be held in either the gym or cafeteria, except when safety concerns require use of a more secure location, i.e. gated courtyard)

North Wing- Fridays from 10:00-11:00 am

Emergency Stabilization Unit- Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00 am

Child and Adolescent Unit- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1200-1:00pm

General visitation begins promptly at the times indicated above- we will allow for a 5-10 minute grace period in which we can allow late visitor arrivals.

*With a physician order, when applicable, patient's have the option to designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. In-person visitation by the essential caregiver can occur for 2 hours daily between the hours of 12:30-2:30pm. Essential caregivers, named by the patient MUST comply with all visitation requirements related to health and safety as stated above. If essential caregiver visitation overlaps with River Point's scheduled general visitation days, only the "essential caregiver" (as identified by the patient) will be permitted to continue with the visit and the location of visitation might change, in an effort to ensure minimal disruption to the patient programming.

River Point allows 2 visitors per patient whereas all visitors must be over the age of 12 years.

Visitation Restrictions

A physician may write an order to specify circumstances of visitation which can include restricted visitation, no visitation, alternate times for visitation, etc. based on the safety and current state of patient's health and in the best interest of the patient.

Patient's have the right to refuse visitor(s) and the right to refuse participation in visitation.

Visitors who fail to comply with Facility policy and procedures or who are disruptive to the hospital environment will be prohibited from participating in visitation.

PROCEDURE

WHO

DOES WHAT

Physician

May write an order to specify circumstances of visitation such as visitation with a minor child or to specify an alternative time for visitors that request accommodations.

Evaluation
And Referral

Provide patient handbook upon admission with designated times for visitation.

Receptionist

Asks visitors to sign confidentiality waiver and sign in and out at front desk. Gives visitors a temporary visitor's pass.

Requests patient identification number and verifies patient identification number.

Identifies the patients whom have visitors present on census list and provides to unit staff.

Provides patient belongings bag to visitors if items are being dropped off for patients. Notifies unit that patient has belongings at front desk.



	Informs House Supervisor or AOC if any issues arise
Social Services	Conducts metal detector wand of all visitors. Escorts visitors to visitation location
Unit Staff	Escorts patients to visitation location with Patient Observation forms of only those patients.
Social Services/Unit Staff	Supervises visitation while maintaining Patient Observation forms. Contact unit staff at completion of visitation
Unit Staff	Escorts patients back to unit
Social Services	Escorts visitors back to lobby for exit from the facility.

Post COVID-19 Visitation Addendum

- I. **Purpose-** To ensure that all special visitation provisions in Florida for all F.S. 395 facilities are observed and complied with.
- II. **Policy-** It is the policy of River Point Behavioral Health to ensure the rights of all patients receiving care and services.

Infection Control Policy covers infection control and education policies for visitors; screening, personal protective equipment, and other infection control protocols for visitors.

This policy ensures permissible length of visits and numbers of visitors, which must meet or exceed the standards in ss. 400.022(1)(b).

Our organization ensures 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 allow consensual physical contact between a resident, client, or patient and the visitor where safe and clinically appropriate.

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.

III. Procedure

With a physician order and where applicable, the above and following will always be observed:

Essential caregiver: 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.

- The Intake Specialist shall inform the patient/support person/legal representative of the patient's visitation right.
- The Intake Specialist shall document the identity of a Support Person/legal representative selected by a patient shall be recorded on the intake assessment form.
- 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.

These standards apply by law in the following circumstances in Hospitals:

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.

IV. References

408.823, F.S