

VISITATION / VISITATION RIGHTS

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of Fort Lauderdale Behavioral Health (FLBHC) to provide an opportunity for all patients to have visitation with family, friends and significant others.

SCOPE

All employees of FLBHC, visitors and patient's

PROCEDURE

A. Informing Patients:

All patients shall be informed, before care is furnished to the patient whenever possible, of their visitation rights, and any clinically necessary or reasonable restriction or limitation that FLBHC may place on such rights, and the reason for such restriction or limitation.

B. Patient Visitation Rights:

- a. All patients shall have the right, subject to their consent, to receive visitors whom they designate. The patient shall have the right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time.
- b. Patient visitation rights shall not be restricted, limited, or otherwise denied on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

Restrictions on Patient Visitation:

The facility may impose clinically appropriate limitations on patient visitation when visitation would interfere with the care or health of the patient. Visitation may be conducted through electronic means such as a zoom call.

Support Person(s)/Emergency Contact:

- a. All patients shall be given an opportunity to identify a support person/emergency contact who may be a family member, friend, or other individual who supports the patient during his or her hospital stay and may exercise the patient's visitation rights in the event the patient is incapacitated or otherwise unable to do so. A support person/emergency contact person may be identified by the patient verbally or in writing.
- b. The identity of a support person/emergency contact person selected by a patient shall be recorded in the patient's medical record.

General Rules

- a. Visitors will be required to check in with the front desk 15 minutes prior to the start of visitation.
- b. Visitors are required to have a valid ID. In addition, the visitor will sign in and out when leaving the facility.
- c. The switchboard will request the patient's privacy code from each visitor requesting to visit with a patient and that program will verify that the patient wishes to visit.

- d. Nobody under the age of 18 is allowed to visit with the patients.
- e. Patients may only receive 2 visitors at a time.
- f. Patients have the right to visit or contact clergy, attorneys, law enforcement or Command, outside of designated visitation times.
- g. Visitors may be asked to leave during visitation for security reasons.
- h. Intoxicated or otherwise impaired visitors will NOT be permitted in the designated visitation area or on hospital grounds.
- i. No excessive displays of affection will be allowed during visitation time. Failure to adhere to the rules for visitation will result in immediate termination of the visitation.
- j. Shoes, shirts and appropriate clothing will be worn at all times. Clothing should not have references to drugs, alcohol or be sexually inappropriate. If visitors are not wearing appropriate clothing, they will be asked to leave.
- k. Any allowable items that are brought in for the patients during visitation will be required to be left with the receptionist so that the standard inventory process can be followed. No items are permitted to be given directly to the patient.
- l. Fort Lauderdale Behavioral Health Center is unable to accept responsibility for visitor's valuables. Visitors will not be permitted in the designated visitation area carrying purses or packages. Lockers are provided for visitor's belongings.
- m. The following items are not permitted to be brought into the visitation area;
 - a. Any glass or breakable item.
 - b. Any sharp items.
 - c. Any ingestible substance such as vitamins, alcohol, medication, drugs
 - d. No food or beverages
 - e. No purses
 - f. No cell phones, cameras or tape recorders
 - g. No weapons of any kind; knives, guns, box cutters, etc.
 - h. No weapons; i.e., knives, guns, etc. will be permitted within the hospital. Visitors will be asked to lock these items in their vehicle.

Infection Control

- a. Visitors with fever, acute respiratory illness, vomiting, or diarrhea are encouraged not to visit patients.
- b. Visitors will no longer be screened for COVID-19.
- c. PPE such as masks are not required. Facemasks will be made available for visitors who request one.
- d. Visitors are not required to provide proof of vaccination or immunization status.