

**4655.1910 POLICIES CONCERNING PATIENTS.**

Subpart 1. **Visiting hours.** Visiting hours shall be established as a written policy of the home and shall be posted in plain view of visitors. Unrestricted visiting hours are recommended.

Subp. 2. **Visits by a pastor.** A patient's or resident's pastor shall be permitted to visit at any time. Privacy for consultation, communion, or for interviews shall be the privilege of every patient or resident.

Subp. 3. **Visits to critically ill patients.** Relatives or guardians shall be allowed to visit critically ill patients in nursing homes at any time.

Subp. 4. **Telephones.** There shall be at least one non-coin-operated telephone which is accessible at all times in case of emergency. Patients and residents shall have access to a public telephone at a convenient location within the building.

Subp. 5. **Mail.** Patients and residents shall receive their mail unopened unless a legal guardian has requested in writing that the mail be reviewed. The outgoing mail shall not be censored.

Subp. 6. **Funds and possessions.** No home shall handle the personal major business affairs of a patient or resident without written legal authorization by the legal guardian.

Subp. 7. **Smoking.** Patients or residents shall not be permitted to smoke in bed except in the case of a bedfast patient while under the direct supervision of a staff member.

Subp. 8. **Pet animals.** Pet animals may be kept on the premises of a nursing home or boarding care home only in accordance with the provisions of part 4638.0200.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 144.56; 144A.02 to 144A.08*

**History:** *17 SR 1279*

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