

NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (NNAMHS)
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: CONSUMER VISITATION POLICY

NUMBER: NN-PC-PL-05

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ORIGINAL DATE: 06/12/91

REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 01/12/94, 10/29/98, 10/18/01, 10/28/04, 09/06/07, 6/17/10,
7/18/13

APPROVAL: _____ Cody L. Phinney _____, Agency Director

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I. PURPOSE

To ensure that all visitors of consumers at NNAMHS enjoy equal visitation privileges consistent with consumer preferences and subject to the NNAMHS justified clinical restrictions.

II. POLICY

All hospitalized consumers have the right to have visitors of their choice during their stay. NNAMHS will not restrict, limit, or deny visitation privileges based on race, color, ethnic or national origin, culture, language, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, socioeconomic status, or physical or mental disability.

III. REFERENCES

1. 42 CFR 482.13 (h). Conditions of Participation for Hospitals Patient's Rights.

2. The Joint Commission Accreditation Manual for Hospitals, Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual.
3. Nevada Revised Statutes 433.484 Personal Rights.

#### IV. DEFINITIONS

1. **Justified Clinical Restriction:** Any clinically necessary or reasonable restriction or limitation imposed on a consumer's visitation rights when restriction or limitation is necessary to provide safe care to a consumer or other consumers. A justified clinical restriction may include, but need not be limited to one or more of the following:
  - a. A court order limiting or restraining contact.
  - b. Behavior presenting a direct risk or threat to the consumer, hospital staff, or others in the immediate environment.
  - c. Behavior disruptive to the functioning of the consumer care unit.
  - d. Reasonable limitations on the number of visitors at any one time.
  - e. Consumer risk of infection by the visitor.
  - f. Consumer's need for privacy or rest.
  - g. Treating physician believes it is in the consumer's best interest to limit visitation during a particular clinical intervention.
  - h. Consumer risk of access to contraband by visitor.
  - i. **Family:** Any person(s) who play a significant role in an individual's life, including those not legally related to the individual. Members of family may include but are not limited to spouses, domestic partners, both different-sex and same-sex significant others or parents, adult children, other family members, friends, a legal guardian, and person's from the consumer's community.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. Upon admission to the hospital, NNAMHS will provide notice to consumers (or their support persons where appropriate) of their visitation rights.
- B. The notice of visitation rights will include the right to receive visitors designated by the consumer, and the right to withdraw or deny consent to visitation of any person at any time.
- C. The notice of visitation rights will be posted on the units.
- D. Consumers have a right to confidentiality and must give consent before receiving visitors or before staff acknowledge to visitors that the consumer is here.
- E. Visitors will only be allowed during designated visiting hours or during court proceedings when the consumer has given appropriate consent.
- F. All hospital staff will receive education on the contents of this policy.