

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**



SUBJECT: PATIENT VISITATION

POLICY NO: 380

PURPOSE: To set forth the Department's policy regarding patient visitation.

POLICY: To ensure that a patient in a County facility has the right to designate visitors of his or her choosing, regardless of whether the visitor is related by blood or marriage – including domestic partners, the children of the patient's domestic partners, and the domestic partner of the patient's parent or child – unless:

1. No visitors are allowed.
2. The facility reasonably determines that the presence of a particular visitor would endanger the health or safety of a patient, member of the health facility staff, or other visitor to the health facility, or would significantly disrupt the operations of a facility.
3. The patient has indicated to health facility staff that the patient does not want this person to visit.

For purposes of this policy, "domestic partner" means two adults who have chosen to share one another's lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring, in accordance with specific provisions of existing law. In the event the patient is incapable of making a decision, his or her wishes, if known, are to be considered for the purposes of determining who may visit. At a minimum, visitation rights should be given to individuals living in the same household, which shall include any family members or domestic partners, children of the patient's domestic partner, and the domestic partner of the patient's parent or child.

This policy may not be construed to prohibit the facility from otherwise establishing reasonable restrictions upon visitation, including restrictions upon the hours of visitation and number of visitors. Patients shall be informed of the County facilities' visitation policies.

AUTHORITY: California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 70707
Health and Safety Code Section 1261
Family Code Section 297

EFFECTIVE DATE: Jan 01, 2000

SUPERCEDES:

APPROVED: Signature on File