



Access to Hospital Patients and Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities by Essential State-Authorized Personnel

The Illinois Department of Public Health recognizes the continuing need for reasonable access by necessary professionals to hospitals and intermediate and long-term care facilities (facilities), while still protecting the health and safety of their patients/residents. Patients/residents have a right to legal counsel and other protections that must be preserved. Thereby, essential professionals, such as those providing legal services, advising residents of their legal rights, and assisting with matters in which residents may be aggrieved should be allowed reasonable access to patients/residents at facilities.

Moreover, essential State-authorized personnel have a duty to provide certain services to long-term care residents. Therefore, the Department grants authorization for entry into intermediate and long-term care facilities and hospitals to those individuals permitted or required by federal, State, or local law. These individuals include, but are not limited to, employees or agents of a public agency, such as the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, including representatives of the Office of State Guardian for the purpose of reviewing do not resuscitate (DNR) orders and making other end of life decisions, and Legal Advocacy Service (LAS) attorneys for the purpose of conducting meetings pursuant to the legal representation of their clients.

All individuals granted authorization under this guidance should not be classified as visitors - they should be assessed as facility staff are assessed. All such individuals must promptly notify facility staff upon arrival and follow all screening protocols established by the facility. Any individual who does not meet the screening standards will not be granted access to the facility.