

SUBJECT: DESIGNATED SUPPORT PERSONS

POLICY:

The Center must in adherence to Virginia Code 32.1-137.08, provide disabled patients with access to a designated support person (DSP) during any admission.

PROCEDURE:

1. If the Center has a website, it must post or provide a link to information regarding designated support persons (DSP).
2. The Center shall review state regulations at least annually to determine if there are any updated requirements for health care facilities.
3. The disabled patient (or authorized representative/care provider) has a right to identify a designated support person to accompany the patient during an admission.
4. This identified individual must be 18 years of age or older and knowledgeable about the patient's needs and may provide necessary support and assistance due to the specifics of the person's disability at any time health care services are provided.
5. To assure notification of (DSP) rights, the center's Patient's Rights and Responsibilities policy is distributed, if requested, to a patient on admission. Information is available through the Patient's Rights and Responsibilities Policy document, on the centers website in addition to being posted in the lobby.
6. A designated support person is not considered a visitor and is not subject to any such restriction.
7. The (DSP) may, however, be required to comply with reasonable requirements of the center to protect the health and safety of the disabled person, the (DSP), physicians, staff, patients, visitors, and the public.