

**INDEPENDENCE ASSOCIATION HCBS Policy: 006****Title: Visitation Policy****Date: April 1, 2022****Policy:**

Independence Association (IA) recognizes that people have the right to develop close, private and personal relationships without unnecessary barriers or obstacles imposed on them. Therefore, people participating in all IA programs may have visitors of their choosing at any time, including occasional meals and overnight stays; advance notice or permission from staff is not required. In addition, privacy will be assured by providing areas where the person and their visitor will not be disturbed. Individuals may also decline visitors except for those required to maintain waiver enrollment and continued services in their home.

**Procedure:**

1. Residential programs:
  - a. The resident may have guests at any time. However, the resident is fully responsible for the actions and/or conduct of any such guests, who are expected to adhere to the requirements identified in the lease and attachments, including respecting other residents' right to the quiet enjoyment of their home.
  - b. Residents may have visitors in their bedroom or private living quarters should they choose.
  - c. A guest is limited to no more than 14 nights in a six-month period and may not spend more than 2 nights consecutively.
  - d. Taking into consideration the rights of others in the home, residents may have visitors in their bedroom, or any common area of the person's home.
  - e. Visitors are welcome to remain for a meal without advance notice.
  - f. As a courtesy, residents are encouraged to inform staff in advance of visitors, but it is not required.
  - g. Individuals may invite their visitors to stay overnight.
  - h. Visitors must abide by the home's smoking policy to only smoke in designated smoking areas which are always located outside.
  - i. Visitors are expected to be mindful of and respectful to other people living in the home.
  - j. Residents may not share or give copies of the house/room keys to visitors.
2. Community Support Programs:
  - a. Visitors may visit in designated areas of the building.

- b. Visitors may participate in meal and break times but will be responsible for the cost of their meal or snacks.
  - c. Visitors must abide by the program's smoking policy to only smoke in designated smoking areas which are always located outside.
3. All IA programs:
- a. A person may decline to see a visitor at any time unless that visitor is necessary to remain eligible for waiver benefits.
  - b. If other participants in the program feel disrespected by an individual's visitor, the Program Manager should facilitate a meeting between the disrespected person(s), the individual and that individual's visitor to resolve the concern(s).
  - c. If concerns arise regarding a visitor due to the health or safety of the person being visited, the Program Manager will discuss the concern(s) with that person to determine if the concerns can be resolved.
  - d. If concerns cannot be resolved, and it is felt that the person's health or safety is in jeopardy, the person's case manager will be alerted.
  - e. If it is felt that visitor modifications need to be put in place, modifications will be documented and implemented in collaboration with the person, the case manager and in accordance with 14-197 CMR Ch5, *Regulations Governing Behavioral Support, Modification and Management for People with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism in Maine*.