# Visiting a Patient at RISPH:

A patient must designate who is allowed to visit, and the visitor’s name must be approved by the Treatment Team and placed on a Visitor’s List.

A visitor where there is an active No-Contact Order with a patient is not allowed to visit unless the No- Contact Order is Amended or Vacated. Change in the Status of the No-Contact Order must be given to the assigned Clinical Social Worker (CSW) who will verify the change in the No-Contact Order with the BHDDH Legal Oﬃce.

All patients begin visitation with Non-Contact visits: there is no physical contact with the patient, the visit is conducted through a plate glass window, and communication is by telephone. When the Treatment Team approves, a patient may be allowed Contact Visits.

Contact Visits occur in a room which is supervised by the Security Oﬃce. Brief physical greeting and parting contact is allowed; a brief handshake, ﬁst bump, hug, or brief kiss. No other physical contact is allowed during the visit.

The RISPH must follow Forensic Statutes, and Security measures allow visitation to occur for patients in the RISPH. Security provides oversight and supervision of visitation, including visitor sign- in, issuance of visitor badge, metal detector screening (wanding), and provision of a locker to store visitor items during the visit. Security may ask you to turn out your pockets, and you will be asked to remove any metal items. If the alarm sounds following three attempts of screening by wanding, the visit will be terminated. If there is suspected contraband, the visit will be terminated. When a visit has been terminated, the visitor will be asked to leave. Terminated visits will be referred to the Treatment Team.

Visitors are expected to follow the RISPH visitation procedures. This includes any COVID or infection control procedures which may be necessary to protect both the patients and visitors to the facility. If visitors do not follow the RISPH visiting procedures, and visits are terminated, visitation status will be reviewed by the Treatment Team.

*When clinically necessary, Nursing may cancel a visit. If there are safety concerns, Security and/or Nursing may cancel the visit.*

**Cell phones and Electronic Recording Devices are Prohibited During Visits.**

Non-professional visits are for 30 minutes. Visits may be extended for another 30 minutes when practicable.

You must have a picture ID (over age 17) Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Only two adults or one adult and up to two minor children may visit at one time.

*Visitation with minor children is at the discretion of the Treatment Team and is evaluated on a case-by- case basis.*

# VISITING HOURS:

Sunday-Saturday 12 p.m.-4 p.m. & 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

If food visits are approved for a patient, and a Doctor’s Order is written, you will be contacted by a Treatment Team member, most frequently the assigned CSW, regarding the time and arrangements.

No visits can occur during treatment groups. As there is only one contact room, and one Non- Contact visiting room, it is recommended that you call Security to schedule your visitation time: **462- 3095**. If you do not call Security to schedule your

visit prior to your arrival, you may be kept waiting until the visit room is free due to prior scheduled visits.

**How do I contact a patient’s Treatment Team?** You can contact a patient’s Treatment Team by contacting their assigned CSW. If you do not know a patient’s assigned CSW, you can call the RISPH Clerk Secretary at 462-2608 and ask to be directed to the CSW who may be assigned. Patients are encouraged to sign a Release of Information (ROI) to facilitate contact with a designated family member/ friend. Once a ROI is signed, the CSW will contact the family member/ friend to arrange a meeting and begin their involvement in the patient’s treatment and discharge planning process.

# What can I bring a patient?

*All items must be approved in advance*. Documents requiring a patient’s signature (i.e.; checks, Legal documents) **must ﬁrst be approved by the patient’s Psychiatrist.** The following are examples of items patients may be able to use, *with the Treatment Team’s prior approval:*

1. Appropriate magazines (without staples) and one or two paperback books.
2. Family photos (with no metal frames or glass).
3. Clothing (no drawstrings, no hooded sweatshirts).
4. Shoes (no boots/steel-toes shoes/ shoelaces).

The decision to allow any of the above items depends on the unit’s environment and is evaluated by the Treatment Team on a case-by - case basis. Anything not approved by the Treatment Team is considered contraband.

**What is not permitted to bring to a patient?** *Do not give money directly to any patient. Please see ‘how money is handled at RISPH.’*

Account Oﬃce is closed daily from 12-1 p.m. for lunch. If you require further assistance, please speak with the patient’s assigned CSW.

Personal hygiene products are provided by RISPH or must be purchased by the CSW; these items are not allowed to be brought in.

Plastic eating utensils, pens and pencils are provided by RISPH. Please do not bring any of these items in.

*Nothing, including food, can be brought in unless previously approved by the Treatment Team. No items may be given to other patients.*

# Can I bring food to the RISPH?

Food privileges are determined by the Treatment Team and based on Legal status. If a patient does not have food privileges, no food can be brought in-this includes gum, mints, lozenges, coﬀee, soda, etc. If you bring in any type of food, and the patient is not permitted food privileges; it will be turned away at the door. If a patient is permitted food privileges; you will be informed by a Treatment Team member.

# How is money handled at RISPH?

No money is allowed on any Forensic Unit. ***Do not give money directly to any Forensic patient.*** You can mail a check or money order made out in the patient’s name to:

Patient Accounts Oﬃce Barry Hall Building 52

14 Harrington Rd.

Cranston, RI, 02920

or; you may go in-person to Barry Hall Monday- Friday 8:30 a.m.- 12 p.m. & 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; to deliver a check, money order or cash in-person to the Patient Account Oﬃce. Please note, the Patient

# How do I send mail to a patient at RISPH?

Please address the envelope to:

Patient Name RISPH

45 Howard Ave

Cranston, RI, 02920

***The RISPH is a non-smoking facility.***

# Can a patient make phone calls?

Yes, a telephone is available on each unit for patients’ use. Telephone calls may be delayed, based on the unit’s environment, and non- professional calls are not available during therapeutic activities, mealtimes, or treatment groups/ sessions; the telephone is shut oﬀ during these times. For calls the patient needs to make out-of-State, the patient can access their CSW for assistance.

Telephone calls are limited to two; ﬁfteen- minute calls per shift per patient. Calls may be limited for clinical or Legal reasons. Patients are always allowed to contact the following by telephone: their Attorney, the Mental Health Advocate, the Department of Health, and Disability Rights Rhode Island. These telephone numbers are posted beside the patient telephones on the Units.

# What is the Forensic Division?

The Forensic Division provides evaluations ordered by the Court; and is separate from the Treatment Team. Members of the Forensic Division do not provide treatment; but may collaborate with the RISPH Treatment Team members to help arrange discharge from Court. Dr. Barry Wall is the Director of the Forensic Division. All Forensic Division staﬀ can be reached at 462-2013.



RHODE ISLAND STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

45 Howard Ave.

Cranston, RI, 02920

VISITOR INFORMATION & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS