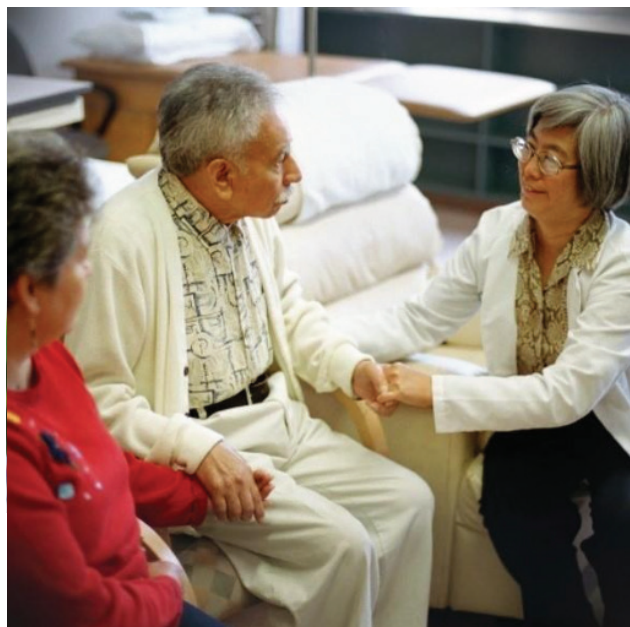


# Hospital Visitation Rights for Dementia Patients in California



Hospital settings can be overwhelming for people with dementia. Friends and family members can play an important role in supporting people with dementia while in the hospital.

Starting January 1, 2026, a new California law ensures that people with disabilities and/or cognitive impairment including dementia, can have a friend or family caregiver stay with them as needed throughout the duration of their hospital visit.

Hospitals are still allowed to make restrictions to maintain a safe environment for patients, staff, and visitors. (California Health and Safety Code Section 1261.1)

## **I am a friend or family caregiver. How do I request to stay beyond visiting hours?**

Talk to the physician or hospital administration staff and inform them of your desire to remain with your family member or friend- including beyond regular visitor hours.

### **More Information:**

People with dementia are also covered by federal and state civil rights laws. More information is available from Disability Rights California:

**[disabilityrightscalifornia.org/publications/access-to-health-care-for-people-with-disabilities-under-the-ada-and-other-civil](https://disabilityrightscalifornia.org/publications/access-to-health-care-for-people-with-disabilities-under-the-ada-and-other-civil)**