

**NOTICE OF INTENT**

**Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**Nursing Facilities  
Licensing Standards  
Virtual Visitation  
(LAC 48:I.9781)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to adopt LAC 48:I.9781 as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and 40:1193.1-1193.11. This proposed Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

Act 596 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, hereafter referred to as the Nursing Home Virtual Visitation Act, enacted R.S. 40:1193.1-1193.11 which directed the Department of Health to establish provisions governing nursing facility virtual visitation in order to provide for consent, by a nursing facility resident or a legal representative, relative to the authorization for installation and use of a monitoring device in the room of the resident.

In compliance with the requirements of Act 596, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing promulgated an Emergency Rule which amended the provisions governing the licensing of nursing facilities in order to adopt provisions governing virtual visitation (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 44, Number 11). This proposed Rule is being promulgated

to continue the provisions of the November 20, 2018 Emergency Rule.

**Title 48**

**PUBLIC HEALTH-GENERAL**

**Part I. General Administration**

**Subpart 3. Licensing and Certification**

**Chapter 97. Nursing Facilities**

**Subchapter C. Resident Rights**

**§9781. Virtual Visitation**

A. Each nursing facility licensed by the Department of Health shall comply with the provisions of the Nursing Home Virtual Visitation Act of 2018 enacted by the Louisiana Legislature, or such amendments enacted thereafter.

B. The term "monitoring device", as used in this Section, shall have the same meaning as defined in the Nursing Home Virtual Visitation Act of 2018.

**C. Capacity to Consent to Virtual Visitation**

1. A resident's capacity to consent to the authorization for installation and use of a monitoring device is presumed if the resident has not been interdicted and has no current documented medical diagnosis affecting capacity.

2. Any question as to capacity of a non-interdicted resident to consent to the authorization for installation and use of a monitoring device shall be determined by the resident's admitting physician, the resident's personal physician, or the

medical director of the nursing facility; such determination shall be documented in the resident's medical record.

3. The nursing facility shall have a policy regarding capacity to consent to the authorization for installation and use of a monitoring device in a resident's room; such policy shall include, at a minimum, the provisions of §9781.C.1 and §9781.C.2.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and 40:1193.1-1193.11.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 45:

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed Rule on the family has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on family functioning, stability or autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

In compliance with Act 854 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the poverty impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule may have a negative impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973 since nursing facility residents that consent to virtual visitation or their families are responsible for the costs associated with the installation and

use of monitoring devices in the residents' rooms.

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service and no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service. These provisions will have no impact the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

Interested persons may submit written comments to Cecile Castello, Health Standards Section, P.O. Box 3767, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or by email to MedicaidPolicy@la.gov. Ms. Castello is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. A public hearing on this proposed Rule is scheduled for Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 118, Bienville Building, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. At that time all interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views or arguments either orally or in writing. The deadline for receipt of all written comments is 4:30 p.m. on the next business day following the public hearing.

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH

Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Person

Preparing

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Rule Title:

Nursing Facilities  
Licensing Standards  
Virtual Visitation

Date Rule Takes Effect: November 20, 2018

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. The following summary statements, based on the attached worksheets, will be published in the Louisiana Register with the proposed agency rule.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (SUMMARY) *M.F.*

*It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will have no programmatic fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of promulgation for FY 18-19. Any potential additional workload on the regulatory agency is indeterminable, and anticipated to be absorbed with existing staff. It is anticipated that \$432 will be expended in FY 18-19 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.*

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

*It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed rule will not affect federal revenue collections since the licensing fees, in the same amounts, will continue to be collected.*

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

*This proposed rule continues the provisions of the November 20, 2018 Emergency Rule which amended the licensing standards for nursing facilities in order to adopt provisions governing virtual visitation to provide for consent, by a nursing facility resident or a legal representative, relative to the authorization for installation and use of a monitoring device in the room of the resident, in compliance with Act 596 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. This proposed Rule may result in economic costs to residents of nursing facilities that consent to virtual visitation since the costs associated with the installation and operation of the monitoring devices are the responsibility of the residents. It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed rule will have no economic costs or benefits to nursing facilities in FY 18-19, FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 since nursing facilities will not bear the financial responsibility for the installation and operation of monitoring devices in residents' room.*

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.

Cecile Castello

Signature of Agency Head  
or Designee

Evan Brasel Staff Director

Legislative Fiscal Officer  
or Designee

Cecile Castello  
Health Standards Section Director  
Typed name and Title of  
Agency Head or Designee

11/9/18

Date of Signature

Whitaker Ford

LDH/BHSF Budget Head

11/09/18

Date of Signature

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The following information is required in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberations on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

*This proposed rule continues the provisions of the November 20, 2018 Emergency Rule which amended the licensing standards for nursing facilities in order to adopt provisions governing virtual visitation to provide for consent, by a nursing facility resident or a legal representative, relative to the authorization for installation and use of a monitoring device in the room of the resident in compliance with Act 596 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.*

- B. Summarize the circumstances that require this action. If the action is required by federal regulations, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

*Act 596 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, hereafter referred to as the Nursing Home Virtual Visitation Act, enacted R.S. 40:1193.1-1193.11 which directed the Department of Health to establish provisions governing nursing facility virtual visitation in order to provide for consent, by a nursing facility resident or a legal representative, relative to the authorization for installation and use of a monitoring device in the room of the resident.*

*In compliance with the requirements of Act 596, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing promulgated an Emergency Rule which amended provisions governing the of nursing facilities in order to adopt provisions governing virtual visitation (Louisiana Register, Volume 44, Number 11). This proposed Rule is being promulgated to continue the provisions of the November 20, 2018 Emergency Rule.*

- (1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

*No. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will have no programmatic fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of promulgation for FY 18-19. It is anticipated that \$432 will be expended in FY 18-19 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.*

- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

- (a)  If yes, attach documentation.  
(b)  If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
WORKSHEET

I. A. COST OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. What is the anticipated increase or (decrease) in cost to implement the proposed action?

COST	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
PERSONAL SERVICES			
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$432	\$0	\$0
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
OTHER CHARGES			
REPAIR & CONSTR.			
POSITIONS (#)			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$432</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A.1.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

*In FY 18-19, \$432 will be spent for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.*

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

Source	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
STATE GENERAL FUND	\$432	\$0	\$0
SELF-GENERATED			
FEDERAL FUND			
OTHER (Specify)			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$432</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

*Yes, sufficient funds are available to implement this rule.*

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THIS PROPOSED ACTION.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustment in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

*This proposed rule has no known impact on local governmental units.*

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
WORKSHEET

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit that will be affected by these costs or savings.

*There is no known impact on the sources of local governmental unit funding.*

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

- A. What increase or (decrease) in revenues can be expected from the proposed action?

REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
STATE GENERAL FUND			
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED			
RESTRICTED FUNDS*			
FEDERAL FUNDS			
LOCAL FUNDS			
<b>Total</b>			

\*Specify the particular fund being impacted

- B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenue shown in "A". Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

- A. What persons or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effects on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.)

*This proposed rule continues the provisions of the November 20, 2018 Emergency Rule which amended the licensing standards for nursing facilities in order to adopt provisions governing virtual visitation to provide for consent, by a nursing facility resident or a legal representative, relative to the authorization for installation and use of a monitoring device in the room of the resident, in compliance with Act 596 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.*

- B. Also, provide an estimate of any revenue impact resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

*This proposed Rule may result in economic costs to residents of nursing facilities that consent to virtual visitation since the costs associated with the installation and operation of the monitoring devices are the responsibility of the residents. It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed rule will have no economic costs or benefits to nursing facilities in FY 18-19, FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 since nursing facilities will not bear the financial responsibility for the installation and operation of monitoring devices in residents' room.*

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

*This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.*