



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

February 10, 2021

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AL TSA: NH #2020-013

**ONE PAGE RESOURCE FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE VISITS  
AND ESSENTIAL SUPPORT PERSONS**

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

The Department of Social and Health Services created two one-page resources designed to be shared with families and visitors who wish to know more about Compassionate Care and Essential Support Persons. The documents should also be shared with long-term care staff who would benefit from additional clarification under the Safe Start for Long-Term Care plan.

The first is "*What You Need to Know About Compassionate Care*". This one-page document summarizes and explains what compassionate care is and the requirements for such a visit to occur. Click [here](#) to access the document.

The second is "*What You Need to Know about Essential Support Persons*". This one-page document summarizes and explains what an essential support person(ESP) is and answers a series of questions regarding what an ESP may and may not do. Click [here](#) to access the document.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact the RCS Policy Unit at [RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

*DSHS: "Transforming Lives"*