



ARMANDO
PERSONAL INJURY LAW

COVID-19 IN FLORIDA

How to Protect Your Loved Ones From Nursing Home Abuse

ARMANDO PERSONAL INJURY LAW



COVID-19 IN FLORIDA

How to Protect Your Loved Ones From Nursing Home Abuse

“Nobody knows what happened.” When your loved one is living in a nursing home, there are no words more worrisome. You thought you made the right choice. But now, with COVID-19 restrictions still in place, you can’t physically see your mom or dad. This has left many families wondering what they can do to protect their loved ones from elderly abuse.

During COVID-19, one of the most effective strategies for preventing elderly abuse—making regular in-person visits—isn’t permitted. But there are still measures you can take, even during social distancing, to ensure your family members’ safety. It starts with knowing your rights—and being proactive about exercising them.

74% Increase in reported nursing home abuse in Florida between 2011 and 2015

10% Of elderly adults have experienced abuse of some kind

96% Of elderly abuse cases are not known by relevant agencies charged with protecting older adults

Florida’s emergency order

Prohibits visitation to nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other long-term care facilities

4 Ways to Protect Your Loved Ones When In-Person Visits Aren't Possible



1. Set up a weekly call with your family member's registered nurse.

Ask questions about your loved one's habits, health and wellbeing. If you have concerns, also ask to speak with your family member's physician, or even the center's director.



2. Obtain copies of your family member's weekly nursing notes.

Review the notes for "red flags" that could warrant further action, and discuss those with the registered nurse on your weekly call. Common "red flags" include:

- Failure to eat or drink
- Falls and/or bruising
- Skin care issues such as lesions or pressure sores
- Weight loss
- Urinary tract infections, which can aggravate dementia
- Dehydration
- Medication errors
- Aspiration pneumonia
- A change in mental status, which the nurse should assess through daily awareness questions



3. Record a daily Zoom video call with your loved one.

Take note of your family member's physical appearance. Then, ask questions that gauge their wellbeing:

- How are you feeling?
- How are they treating you?
- Have you been using the bathroom?
- When was the last time you had a bath?



4. Take action if the care center isn't being responsive.

If the nursing home isn't returning your calls, consider going there. Although you don't have the legal right to physically step inside the facility, you can talk through a door to get the answers you need. If the facility still isn't being responsive, Armando Personal Injury Law will send a letter on your behalf within 24 hours.

✓ Legal Checklist

No matter the situation or stage of health, it's critical to ensure your elderly loved ones have essential legal documents in place. During COVID-19, these documents can be drafted virtually via video call.

- Does your loved one have a living will?
- Does your loved one have directives?
- Do you have a Power of Attorney?



Securing a POA Virtually

Without a Power of Attorney (POA) in place, an elderly care facility won't talk with you about your loved one's health. Although POAs are typically executed in person, they can also be completed via video call.

To secure a POA virtually, you'll need a lawyer and a notary. If you need to secure a POA for your loved one during COVID-19 or any other time, reach out to our firm. We'll help you secure a POA quickly and virtually.

Choosing the Right Lawyer

Elderly abuse cases are rarely straightforward. The nursing home will deny that abuse occurred. It will likely shift the blame to the doctor, which is an independent contractor. At the end of the day, nursing homes are businesses, and they will fight your charges with every resource available to them. That's why you need a lawyer ready to fight for you and your loved one. That's why families in Tampa trust Armando Personal Injury Law with their nursing home abuse cases.

Your Loved One Deserves the Best

We're an award-winning Tampa firm that will fight for your family. Reach out to Armando Personal Injury Law today.



At Armando Personal Injury Law, we have more than 40 years of combined experience. From the moment you reach out to us, we're already putting our experience to work for your family. We take cases all the way through trial, ensuring that the people you work with on Day One are the same people who will fight for your loved one in court.

Elderly loved ones might not be able to tell us that they're being abused. That's why being proactive is so important—especially during COVID-19. Use the steps in this guide to protect your loved ones in nursing homes. Then, if you suspect abuse, reach out to your neighbors at Armando Personal Injury Law. We're passionate about helping your family and consider you a member of ours.

Whether you need to obtain a virtual POA or need legal representation for elderly abuse, you need a friend who can advise you on the best path forward. **Contact us today.**

**You need a lawyer on your side.
Trust the firm that fights for Tampa families.**
