

THSMF FAMILY TIMES



THSMF will celebrate
Forensic Technician's Week
6/13 – 6/19/19. Please take a moment to thank one of our FTs for
the outstanding care they provide everyday.



Rights Highlight:

This month we are focusing on the right of **Communication and Social Contacts**. *This is an abbreviated summary. A more detailed summary is located in the Patient and Family Handbook on our website at www.mh.alabama.gov or you may request a copy for the assigned social worker.* Patients have the right to have visitors, receive and send mail, and use the program telephone as set by facility policies. Patients are not allowed to receive any packages or personal possessions from outside the facility. Family members may send money for canteen via personal check or money order. Due to security reasons, all visitors must be approved prior to actual visitation. The patient's lawyer/legal representative, physician, minister, or health professional may visit during regular work hours from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday if prior notification of at least 48 hours (unless special circumstances exist as determined by the Facility Director/designee) has been given to the assigned social worker/designee and it has been determined that this scheduled time will not compromise patient care activities. Approved visitors may visit during regularly published visiting hours unless modifications to visitation have been made. You may request regular visitation privileges for immediate family members (or persons serving in that role) – parents, grandparents, siblings, spouse/domestic partner, legal guardian or children fourteen (14) years of age or older. Special exceptions may be made only with the permission of the Facility Director or someone acting on his/her behalf. Contact the assigned social worker to discuss any visit requests including any decision to remove an individual from the visitation list. Regular visiting hours are from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Children under the age of one are not allowed to visit. Requests for visits with children ages two to 13, who are immediate family, may be requested. Requests for such special visits should be made a minimum of at least seven days prior to the desired visit date. A request to visit does not guarantee approval of the visit.

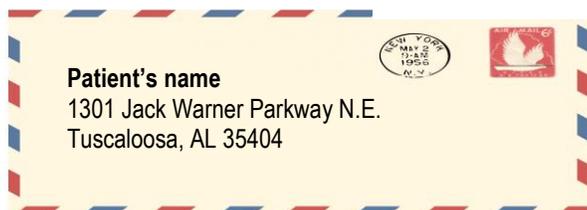
Family Education classes meet from 10 – 11:30 a.m. on the 3rd Friday in February, March, May, June, August, September, and November. Our next class is May 18th. The Advocacy Committee currently meets on the third Friday in January, April, July, and October. All family members are encouraged to attend. *Visitation begins at 11:30 a.m. for those attending the Family Education Class or Advocacy meeting.*

Our Family Education Class is all about providing education and support to you – our families. We want you to feel comfortable to come to class, to ask questions or to just sit quietly and listen. We use different tools (handouts, videos, discussion) during the classes to provide the best learning environment. We want to help you learn more about mental health and THSMF.

Sending Mail?

If mailing a letter to your family member at THSMF, please make sure to include your **family member's name** in the address.

No packages are allowed.



If you have any questions or concerns about your loved one's care & treatment, safety, or a medical condition that may require immediate assessment or care, please let staff know immediately.

Passing unacceptable items to a patient at Taylor Hardin is "promoting contraband", and can be illegal, just as it would be in jail. Unacceptable items include tobacco, tobacco products, cash, lighters, medications, street drugs, money (including coins), pens and other sharp items, alcohol, cell phones, and anything else labeled as contraband.

Any visitor who assists or attempts to assist in escape plans, schemes for creating disorder, or passes or attempts to pass any unacceptable item will not be allowed further visits and will be subject to criminal action.



Visitation Reminders:

- All visitors must be pre-approved.
- One drink item and one food item only and both items must be purchased from the THSMF vending machines.
- Bring pictured identification if over the age of 15
- No cell phones, umbrellas, coats, bags, tobacco products, weapons, lighters, allowed.
- You will be asked to clear the metal detector prior to entering the visitation area.
- Once entering the visitation area, you will not be allowed to exit and re-enter.
- Children under the age of 1 are not allowed to visit. Children between the ages of 1 and 13 are not allowed to visit during regular visitation hours. You may contact the assigned social worker to discuss specific rules (who can visit, when you can visit, etc.) about special visits. Requests for special visits must be submitted to the social worker **at least 7 days in advance** of when you would like to visit.

We have had recent events that resulted in visitation being cancelled on the weekends. Please feel free to call Police Services at 205-462-4555 to inquire about visitation before driving to the facility.

Your comments are important to us. Next time you visit, please take a few moments to fill out a "Family/Friend Questionnaire." The questionnaires are on yellow paper and are kept in a wood holder in our lobby. If you need assistance locating one, let us know and we will help you out. The questionnaire has twelve questions and will only take a few minutes to complete. Your feedback helps us to improve on what we do and how we do it.



Have a question or comment about the newsletter? Contact Lori Ellard, LICSW by phone at 205-462-4650 or by email at Lori.Ellard@hardin.mh.alabama.gov