

Caregivers in Hospitals:

Medical Care during COVID-19

This is what you need to know:

1. Some hospitals do not allow visitors at this time.
2. The hospital might need to make an exception to this rule for you. If you need your helper with you because of **your disability**, tell hospital workers. This is called a **reasonable accommodation**.
3. It may help to take a letter from your doctor that says why you need your helper¹.
4. Your helper cannot stay with you if they are sick.
5. They may need to take extra precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Take Action:

If you have a disability and need to go to the hospital, the law gives you certain rights. You may have the right to bring your helper with you. We can help you advocate to keep your caregiver with you during a hospital stay. We may be able to provide you with legal assistance.

If your helper is not allowed to stay with you or for more information about your rights in the hospital setting, **contact [Disability Rights NC](#) at [\(919\) 856-2195](tel:9198562195).**

Here are some other things you can do:

- **File a Civil Rights Complaint** with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Visit [hhs.gov](https://www.hhs.gov) to learn more about this process.
- **File an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Grievance** with the NC Department of Health and Human Services. Visit [ncdhhs.gov](https://www.ncdhhs.gov) to learn more about this process.

In a Civil Rights Complaint or ADA Grievance, be sure to include any other disability-related issues and concerns you have about the hospital.

¹The letter should state why your caregiver's presence is "medically necessary" for you.