

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones working together to assemble white puzzle pieces. The hands are positioned around the pieces, some holding them and others placing them. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR CHAPLAINS & VOLUNTEERS

Do's for Visitors

- **Ask Permission:** Always ask if the patient is comfortable with a visit. Respect their wishes and timing.
- **Practice Hygiene:** Wash or sanitize hands before and after patient interaction. Wear a mask to protect against airborne illnesses.
- **Follow Policies:** Observe visiting hours, limits, and hospital rules. Check in at the nurse's station before entering the room.
- **Stay Brief:** Keep visits short (4–5 minutes) to avoid tiring the patient.
- **Offer Thoughtful Gifts:** Consider cards, books, or small non-allergenic items instead of flowers or balloons.
- **Silence Devices:** Turn off or silence your phone to minimize disruptions.
- **Be Respectful:** Leave the room during doctor visits and prioritize the patient's comfort.

When Visiting

- **Dress appropriately to represent your faith and the church.**
- **Be cheerful, positive, and a good listener. Avoid dominating conversations.**
- **Be sensitive to spiritual needs. Share encouraging scripture or offer to pray if appropriate.**



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A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones working together to assemble white puzzle pieces. The hands are positioned around the pieces, some holding them steady while others are in the process of fitting them together. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR CHAPLAINS & VOLUNTEERS

Don'ts for Visitors

- **Avoid If Sick:** Stay home if you have any symptoms of illness. Send a card or make a call instead.
- **Don't Bring Food:** Avoid giving food unless you know the patient's dietary restrictions.
- **Skip Strong Scents:** Avoid perfume, cologne, or smoking before visiting. Strong odors can be nauseating.
- **Avoid Stressful Topics:** Don't bring up conflicts or criticize medical staff or treatments.
- **Don't Overstay:** Respect the patient's need for rest; avoid prolonged visits.
- **Refrain from Personal Stories:** Focus on the patient rather than discussing your own medical history.

Spiritual Support

- **Read a short Bible verse** (e.g., Psalm 23 or 63).
- **Share God's love and faithfulness.**
- **Offer prayer, but only if welcomed by the patient.**



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