



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

Dorothy Nightingale-Stephens
465 Cayuga Rd
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

October 25, 2022

RE: License #: AF110000644
Investigation #: 2023A0579002
Dees Foster Care

Dear Ms. Nightingale-Stephens:

Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above referenced facility. Due to the violations identified in the report, a written corrective action plan is required. The corrective action plan is due 15 days from the date of this letter and must include the following:

- How compliance with each rule will be achieved.
- Who is directly responsible for implementing the corrective action for each violation.
- Specific time frames for each violation as to when the correction will be completed or implemented.
- Indicate how continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- Be signed and dated.

Please review the enclosed documentation for accuracy and contact me with any questions. In the event that I am not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the local office at (616) 356-0183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cassandra Duursma".

Cassandra Duursma, Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
350 Ottawa Ave NW, 7th Floor-Unit 13
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(269) 615-5050

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	AF110000644
Investigation #:	2023A0579002
Complaint Receipt Date:	09/30/2022
Investigation Initiation Date:	10/10/2022
Report Due Date:	10/30/2022
Licensee Name:	Dorothy Nightingale-Stephens
Licensee Address:	465 Cayuga Rd Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Licensee Telephone #:	(269) 925-4373
Administrator:	N/A
Licensee Designee:	N/A
Name of Facility:	Dees Foster Care
Facility Address:	465 Cayuga Road Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Facility Telephone #:	(269) 925-4373
Original Issuance Date:	11/07/1983
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	02/12/2022
Expiration Date:	02/11/2024
Capacity:	3
Program Type:	DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED AGED

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Some of Resident A's belongings were sold in a yard sale.	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

09/30/2022	Special Investigation Intake 2023A0579002
10/07/2022	Comment- Assigned to Cassandra Duursma
10/07/2022	Special Investigation Initiated – Letter Complainant
10/10/2022	Contact- Face to Face Resident A Dorothy Nightingale-Stephens, Licensee
	Exit Conference Dorothy Nightingale-Stephens, Licensee

ALLEGATION:

Some of Resident A's belongings were sold in a yard sale.

INVESTIGATION:

On 10/7/22, the investigation was assigned to me.

On 10/7/22, I exchanged emails with the complainant who reported the date of the yard sale was unknown. However, it was reported Resident A was given a 30-day discharge notice in July 2022 and another on 10/5/22.

On 10/10/22, I completed an unannounced on-site investigation at the home. Interviews were completed with Ms. Nightingale-Stephens and Resident A.

Ms. Nightingale-Stephens and I discussed a conversation we had on the telephone in August 2022. She confirmed she had issued a 30-day notice to Resident A in July 2022, due to his hoarding behaviors and refusal to complete hygiene tasks. She

confirmed she recalled I had advised her that if Resident A would not move from the home in August 2022, she would need to contact Berrien County Circuit Court and request Resident A's eviction from the home. She reported I also advised her that after she issued the 30-day notice, she could remove Resident A's belongings from the home after 30-days. I advised her that was incorrect. I repeated what was discussed in August 2022, that the procedure for appropriately removing Resident A's belongings from the home, after his discharge, was to send a letter to his guardian via Registered Mail notifying they had 30-days to remove his belongings from the home. She was advised that although Resident A was given a 30-day notice in July and again in October 2022, he has not discharged from the home, so she should not be removing his belongings. She expressed that she thought after she issued the 30-day notice and waited 30-days she could begin getting rid of his belongings. She reported she had not gotten rid of any other belongings, but a person saw Resident A's books in boxes outside when repairs were being done in the home and asked to buy them. She stated staff Christine asked Resident A if he would like to sell his books and he agreed, so the books sold for \$27.50 which she is holding on to until Guardian A comes to the home. She was advised again to contact Circuit Court for eviction assistance for Resident A but reported Resident A's case manager agreed he would move from the home by 10/18/22 so she is hopeful she will not have to go through the eviction process. She was advised that on the day Resident A leaves the home, she is to send a letter via Registered Mail to his guardian giving 30-days for his belongings to be removed from the home, and then after 30-days from the date of the letter, she can remove the items from the home. She expressed understanding and agreement.

Resident A confirmed he has received two discharge notices from the home and expects to leave the home on 10/18/22, although he does not have a placement to go to. Regarding his belongings, he stated staff Christine told him they were having a rummage sale and they were going to sell his belongings. He stated he was not asked. He stated he did not want his belongings sold and he has not received the money from staff selling his belongings.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1421	Handling of resident funds and valuables.
	(8) A licensee, responsible person, and members of the licensee's or responsible person's family shall not borrow money or valuable from a resident, with or without the consent of the resident. A licensee shall further take reasonable precautions to assure the prohibition of financial transactions between a resident and other occupants of the home.

ANALYSIS:	Based on the interviews completed, Ms. Nightingale-Stephens expressed belief that she could remove Resident A's belongings from the home 30-days after giving him a discharge notice, even though he did not discharge from the home. She confirmed some of Resident A's belongings were sold. Therefore, it is established that the licensee and responsible person authorized the sale of Resident A's valuables without Resident A's consent.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

On 10/25/22, I completed an exit conference with Ms. Nightingale-Stephens who reported Resident A has left her home and he and his relatives continue to move his belongings each day. She expressed understanding of my findings and how to proceed should Resident A's belongings be left at the home.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Contingent upon receipt of an acceptable plan of corrective action, I recommend the status of the license remain the same.

Cassandra Duursma

10/17/22

Cassandra Duursma
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Russell Misiak

10/25/22

Russell B. Misiak
Area Manager

Date