



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

February 10, 2023

Leah Allen  
Merrill Assisted Living, LLC  
150 Commerce Ct  
Gladwin, MI 48624

RE: License #: AL730389269  
Investigation #: 2023A0572014  
Merrill Fields Assisted Living

Dear Mrs. Allen:

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.
- How continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- The signature of the responsible party and a date.

If you desire technical assistance in addressing these issues, please feel free to contact me. In any event, the corrective action plan is due within 15 days. Failure to submit an acceptable corrective action plan will result in disciplinary action.

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 (517) 643-7960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Humphrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Anthony Humphrey, Licensing Consultant  
Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
411 Genesee  
P.O. Box 5070  
Saginaw, MI 48605  
(810) 280-7718

enclosure

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

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	AL730389269
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2023A0572014
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	12/19/2022
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	12/22/2022
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	02/17/2023
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Merrill Assisted Living, LLC
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	400 N. Midland Street Merrill, MI 48637
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(989) 705-2060
<b>Administrator:</b>	Leah Allen
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	Leah Allen
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Merrill Fields Assisted Living
<b>Facility Address:</b>	400 N. Midland Street Merrill, MI 48637
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(989) 715-2060
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	04/25/2018
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	10/25/2022
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	10/24/2024
<b>Capacity:</b>	20
<b>Program Type:</b>	PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED AGED ALZHEIMERS

**II. ALLEGATION(S)**

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff bring their children to the home. There is concern this will take away the attention of the staff.</li> </ul>	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents may not be receiving proper care due to children in the home.</li> </ul>	No

**III. METHODOLOGY**

12/19/2022	Special Investigation Intake 2023A0572014
12/19/2022	APS Referral APS made referral.
12/22/2022	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site
02/10/2023	Contact - Telephone call received Staff, Maddison Rodriques.
02/10/2023	Contact - Document Received Justina Bennett.
02/10/2023	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub. Compliance
02/10/2023	Exit Conference Licensee, Leah Allen.

**ALLEGATION:**

- Staff bring their children to the home. There is concern this will take away the attention of the staff.
- Residents may not be receiving proper care due to children in the home.

**INVESTIGATION:**

On 12/19/2022, the local licensing office received a complaint for investigation. There were no other investigative entities involved with this complaint.

On 12/22/2022, I made an unannounced onsite at Merrill Fields Assisted Living, located in Saginaw County Michigan. Interviewed were Licensee, Leah Allen, Residents A, B, C, D and E. There are 18 residents in who reside in the home.

On 12/22/2022, I interviewed Licensee, Leah Allen regarding the allegations. She informed that both Maddison Rodriquez and Justina Bennett are sisters, and they bring their children to work with them in the morning. Ms. Rodriquez's child is 5 years old while Ms. Bennett's is 3 years of age. Ms. Rodriquez is a Med Coordinator, so she's only on the floor twice per week. Her son is at the facility from 6am to 2pm on Fridays. Ms. Bennett also brings her child to work and if they both are scheduled for the morning shift, one of them leaves within the hour to take both children to school. They were usually in the office or private dining playing on the phone or tablet, but they have since rented out the private dining room.

On 12/22/2022, in review of the staff schedule and in speaking with Licensee, Leah Allen, there are 2 caregivers on shift during the morning shift.

On 12/22/2022, I interviewed Resident A regarding the allegations. He informed that he sees one child at the facility, but not all the time. He does not feel that the child is taking away from his care and does not have any complaints.

On 12/22/2022, I interviewed Resident B regarding the allegations. She informed that the children are there at around 5:30am or 6am, running up and down the hallways and are very disruptive. The children were being kept in a room, but now that room has been rented out. She believes that it is a distraction and can cause the staff to not focus on providing care to the residents.

On 12/22/2022, I interviewed Resident C regarding the allegations. She has never seen any children at the home. She believes that she is being provided with proper care.

On 12/22/2022, I interviewed Resident D regarding the allegations. He informed that two of the staff are sisters and they sometimes bring their children to work with them. He believes that the kids are good kids and are not disruptive. Does not feel that they are interfering from resident's care.

On 12/22/2022, I interviewed Resident E regarding the allegations. She informed that the kids come around 6am and they leave for school at 7am. Some of the residents are complaining, but she does not have a complaint. She does not believe that the children are being disruptive, and they are usually in the breakroom. Her only concern with the children is that Ms. Rodriguez is the Med Coordinator and if she has to tend to her child while she's passing medications, she would prefer her to have her full attention on passing meds. Madison also brings her child to the facility on Fridays. If he's there by himself, you'll never know that he's there, but if they bring that child some company, which is his cousin, together they can be disruptive, according to the other residents. She believes that they are in kindergarten.

On 02/10/2023, I interviewed Med Coordinator, Maddison Rodriguez regarding the allegations. She informed that she brings her child to work around 7am and takes him to school at 8am. Ms. Rodriguez child is 5 years old and the two caregivers on shift provides the care and supervision while she transports the children to school. He is usually in the office or formal dining area playing games on her phone. She does not believe that her child is disruptive. There has not been a time in which she has had to stop providing care in order to care for her son. Her child is not usually running down the hallways. He goes down to one of the resident's rooms to give a resident a hug. She informed that she is in the office more, so he hangs with her in the office.

On 02/10/2023, I interviewed Staff, Justina Bennett regarding the allegations. She informed that she brings her child to work and he's only there for about 15 minutes before she has to transport him to school. Ms. Bennett's child is 3 years old, and Ms. Rodriguez transports her child to school as she is one of the two caregivers scheduled to provide care to the residents. He sits in the office or private dining and play games on her phone. He has gotten loud before, and she redirected him. He does not go in the resident's rooms, and he knows he has to be quiet while there. She denies that her child is causing a disruption and that she has ever stopped providing care for the residents because she had to tend to her child.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.14206</b>	<b>Staffing requirements.</b>
	<b>(2) A licensee shall have sufficient direct care staff on duty at all times for the supervision, personal care, and protection of residents and to provide the services specified in the resident's resident care agreement and assessment plan.</b>

<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	There were 18 residents at the home during the onsite inspection. There are staff on duty, however it is reported a staff person leaves to transport children. Based on my interviews with employees of the Merrill Fields Assisted Living and the Residents, there are at least two children who spends a significant time at the facility and because of their ages, care and supervision would have to be provided to them, and staff cannot supervise the care of the residents when they are supervising the care of the young children.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.15305</b>	<b>Resident protection.</b>
	<b>(3) A resident shall be treated with dignity and his or her personal needs, including protection and safety, shall be attended to at all times in accordance with the provisions of the act.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	Based on my interviews with Merrill Fields Assisted Living staff and residents, and my observations during my announced onsite visit, the residents are being provided appropriate care and supervision.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

On 02/10/2023, I conducted an Exit Conference with Licensee, Leah Allen regarding the results of the investigation. She was informed that she will have 15 days from receipt of report to provide licensing a corrective action plan.

**IV. RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend that no changes be made to the licensing status of this large adult foster care group home, pending the receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan (Capacity 1-6).



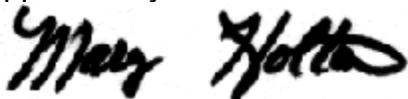
02/10/2023

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Anthony Humphrey  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



02/10/2023

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Mary E. Holton  
Area Manager

Date