



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
DIRECTOR

December 3, 2025

Grace Zimmerman
Auburn Assisted Living, Inc.
10481 W. Buchanan Road
Sumner, MI 48889

RE: License #: AL290385681
Investigation #: 2026A0466003
Country Friends Assisted Living

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

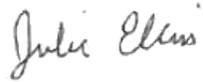
Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above referenced facility. Due to the violations identified in the report, a written corrective action plan is required. The corrective action plan is due 15 days from the date of this letter and must include the following:

- 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) 335-5985.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Elkins".

Julie Elkins, Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
611 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	AL290385681
Investigation #:	2026A0466003
Complaint Receipt Date:	10/17/2025
Investigation Initiation Date:	10/17/2025
Report Due Date:	12/16/2025
LicenseeName:	Auburn Assisted Living, Inc.
Licensee Address:	10481 W. Buchanan Road Sumner, MI 48889
Licensee Telephone #:	(989) 584-6219
Administrator:	Grace Zimmerman
Licensee Designee:	Grace Zimmerman
Name of Facility:	Country Friends Assisted Living
Facility Address:	10481 W. Buchanan Road Sumner, MI 48889
Facility Telephone #:	(989) 584-6219
Original Issuance Date:	07/14/2017
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	01/08/2024
Expiration Date:	01/07/2026
Capacity:	20
Program Type:	AGED

II. ALLEGATION:

	Violation Established?
Facility received a disapproved rating on environmental health inspection dated 9/16/25.	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

10/17/2025	Special Investigation Intake 2026A0466003.
10/17/2025	Special Investigation Initiated – Letter email sent to LD Grace Zimmerman.
10/17/2025	Contact - Document Received EHI D rating.
10/17/2025	Contact - Telephone call made to licensing consultant Amanda Blasius.
10/21/2025	Contact - Telephone call made LD Grace Zimmerman, message left.
10/28/2025	Contact - Document Sent email sent to the facility’s email address.
10/28/2025	Contact - Telephone call made, message left for LD Grace Zimmerman at the facility.
10/28/2025	Contact - Telephone call received, LD Grace Zimmerman interviewed.
10/30/2025	Contact - Document Received from LD Grace Zimmerman.
11/05/2025	Contact - Document Received from LD Grace Zimmerman.
11/10/2025	Inspection Report Requested-Health-Special Inspection.
11/10/2025	Inspection Report Requested – Health.
11/10/2025	Contact - Document Sent to LD Grace Zimmerman.
11/16/2025	Contact - Document Sent to LD Grace Zimmerman.
11/16/2025	Contact - Document Received LD Grace Zimmerman.
12/02/0225	Contact - Document Sent to LD Grace Zimmerman.

12/02/2025	Contact - Document Sent to/from MMHD Adam Byrne.
12/03/2025	Exit Conference with licensee designee Grace Zimmerman.
12/03/2025	APS Referral- not required no suspected abuse/neglect.

ALLEGATION: Facility Received a disapproved rating on environmental health inspection dated 9/16/25.

INVESTIGATION:

On 10/17/2025, *Environment Health Report* (EHI) authored by Austin Thomas dated 9/16/2025 documented the following:

“The water results came back positive for Total Coliform Bacteria. Have a licensed well driller chlorinate the well. Once the well has been chlorinated submit a request for a re-inspection and this department can then take another bacteria water sample.”

On 10/28/2025, I spoke with licensee designee Grace Zimmerman by phone who initially reported that she believed that the well had been chlorinated and well cap replaced. Licensee designee Zimmerman reported that she would look for the documentation of those services and that she would email it to me. Later that same day, licensee designee Zimmerman contacted me by email and stated that the well company had not been out to chlorinate the well yet but that would be out that afternoon (10/28/2025).

On 11/05/2025, licensee designee Zimmerman reported the water chlorination was completed on 10/30/2025 and a new well cap was installed on 11/05/2025. Licensee designee Zimmerman reported that she called the health department to schedule an appointment for a new sample to be taken and she was told that they would need a new referral sent by department of licensing and regulatory affairs (LARA). On 11/10/2025, I made the referral to the health department for the retest.

On 11/16/2025, licensee designee Zimmerman reported that the invoice was mailed by the well company for the chlorinated well and the well replacement cap, so she is not sure if she has received it yet. Licensee designee Zimmerman reported that Austin Thomas from Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMHD) called on 11/15/2025 and scheduled the well retest for 11/19/2025 at 1pm.

On 12/02/2025, Adam Byrne, environmental health supervisor with Mid-Michigan Health Department (MMHD) reported that a water sample was taken on 11/19/2025 and it tested positive for coliform bacteria. Mr. Byrne reported that his office just received the results on the 11/26/2025. Mr. Byrne reported that MMHD will conduct another follow-up site visit for an additional water sample. Mr. Byrne reported that he will reach out to Austin Thomas who is the assigned sanitarian to see if he has

scheduled that yet. Mr. Byrne reported that licensee designee Zimmerman is working with a well-driller and water softener company to determine where the bacteria issue is coming from. Mr. Byrne reported that once that issue is figured out, another follow up sample from EHI will be completed.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.645	Environmental health.
	<p>(1) The water supply must be of potable, reliable quality and from an approved source.</p> <p>(2) A facility that does not have access to an approved community water system shall comply with the safe drinking water act, 1976 PA 399, MCL 325.1001 to 325.1023. A facility not on an approved community water system, or a facility on an approved community water system but that installs water treatment equipment, shall provide a total coliform, nitrate, and arsenic report documenting satisfactory water quality with the initial application and with all renewal applications. Satisfactory samples mean concentrations that do not exceed the primary maximum contaminant levels or action level. The department may require increased monitoring parameters and increased frequency based on local site conditions or other pertinent factors.</p>
ANALYSIS:	The facility received a disapproval rating on their environmental health inspection dated 9/16/25. On 11/19/2025 another water sample was taken after the well had been chlorinated and the well cap replaced but the sample still contains bacteria therefore a violation has been established.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Contingent upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend no change in license status.

Julie Elkins

12/03/2025

Julie Elkins
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Dawn Timm

12/03/2025

Dawn N. Timm
Area Manager

Date