



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
DIRECTOR

May 8, 2026

Jill Gilbert
329 E Pierce Rd
ITHACA, MI 48847

RE: Application #: AM290418959
Country Blessings Retirement Living
7312 N. State Rd
St. Louis, MI 48880

Dear Jill Gilbert:

Attached is the Original Licensing Study Report for the above referenced facility. The study has determined substantial compliance with applicable licensing statutes and administrative rules. Therefore, a temporary license with a maximum capacity of 12 is issued.

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 blue ink, appearing to read "Amanda Blasius".

Amanda Blasius, 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
LICENSING STUDY REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	AM290418959
Licensee Name:	Jill Gilbert
Licensee Address:	329 E Pierce Rd ITHACA, MI 48847
Licensee Telephone #:	(989) 620-4841
Licensee:	Jill Gilbert
Administrator:	Jill Gilbert
Name of Facility:	Country Blessings Retirement Living
Facility Address:	7312 N. State Rd St. Louis, MI 48880
Facility Telephone #:	(989) 681-5188
Application Date:	11/04/2024
Capacity:	12
Program Type:	PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED MENTALLY ILL AGED ALZHEIMERS

II. METHODOLOGY

04/23/2024	Inspection Completed-Env. Health : A refer to AM290394789
07/29/2024	Inspection Completed-Fire Safety : A refer to AM290394789
11/04/2024	On-Line Enrollment
11/06/2024	PSOR on Address Completed
11/06/2024	Contact - Document Sent forms sent
11/08/2024	Contact - Document Received 1326/RI030
12/16/2024	File Transferred To Field Office
12/18/2024	Application Incomplete Letter Sent
05/31/2025	Paperwork received
07/15/2025	Paperwork received
07/17/2025	Inspection Completed-Fire Safety : A refer to AM290394789
08/13/2025	Email sent regarding corrections needed on paperwork
10/15/2025	Paperwork received
10/28/2025	Email sent regarding questions on paperwork
11/24/2025	Paperwork received
01/15/2026	Application Complete/On-site Needed
01/16/2026	Inspection Completed On-site
01/16/2026	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub. Compliance
01/17/2026	Corrections received
01/26/2026	Corrections received
03/03/2026	Inspection Completed-Env. Health : A- refer to AM290394789
04/22/2026	Corrections received

04/27/2026 Corrections received

04/30/2026 Inspection Completed-BCAL Full Compliance

III. DESCRIPTION OF FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

A. Physical Description of Facility

Country Blessings Retirement Living, formerly known as McKellar Assisted Living, is located on 6.5 wooded acres. The facility is a ranch-wooden framed residence with vinyl siding on a crawl space, located just outside the city limits of St. Louis, MI. Downtown St. Louis offers local shopping, gas stations and restaurants. Many churches, doctor offices and a hospital are within 5 miles of the facility in the city of Alma, Michigan. Country Blessings Retirement Living offers a large parking lot located near the front of the home for visitors and staff.

Due to the facility's location, it utilizes both private water and private sewage systems. An environmental health inspection was completed on 3/3/26 by the local health authority and the home was in full compliance. During the onsite inspection, I also found the facility to in full compliance with applicable environmental health rules.

The building of Country Blessings Retirement Living was bought by licensee Jill Gilbert as a sole proprietorship. Confirmation of ownership was confirmed through 2025 summer taxes that was billed to Country Blessings Retirement Living. On 12/02/2026, Jill Gilbert provided written permission for AFC licensing to inspect the facility.

Zoning approval, dated July 15th, 2025, was submitted by the applicant documenting the approval by Bethany Township for the facility to operate as an adult foster home via a signed letter from the zoning officer of Bethany Township.

The facility is a ranch style, one level building. Off from the parking lot, the facility offers three entrances for the home, all of which include wheelchair ramps into the facility. The home offers one additional wheelchair exit, on the east side of the home. The facility's doorways to the living, dining, bathroom, and resident bedrooms have a width to allow for residents requiring wheelchairs or other mobility assistive devices to easily navigate through them and access these spaces.

Upon entering Country Blessings Retirement Living from the porch is a large common room that will be used as a living room for residents. I viewed a large couch and three individual chairs. The dining area, in this section of the facility, is large and offers seating for at least ten residents and allows space for residents to navigate freely with or without assistive devices. The kitchen is located immediately off the dining area. Off from the living room is a long hallway that leads to six resident bedrooms, each offering a private full bathroom. Also located down this hallway is the laundry room and an additional half bathroom. Each of these six resident bedrooms are large enough for one

or two residents, which offers options for married couples. To enter the adjacent part of the facility, one must go through the garage which has a door leading to this additional section of the adult foster home. When entering this adjacent section of the facility through the garage, one will enter the kitchen. This section of the facility has an additional kitchen, dining room that seats four residents, living room, three resident bedrooms and two full resident bathrooms. The facility has a large wooden deck off both dining areas for residents to enjoy the outdoors and observe the wildlife within the backyard. Both dining areas are wheelchair accessible. Both adjacent areas of the home offer two approved wheelchair entrances/exits.

Since Country Blessings Retirement Living has two living areas within the home, it also has two separate areas for a furnace and hot water heater. In the section of the home that has six bedrooms, a gas furnace and gas water heater is located in a room behind the laundry room on the same level as resident bedrooms and living area. The furnace and hot water heater in this section are located on the facility's main floor in a room constructed of materials that provide a 1-hour-fire-resistance rating with a 1-3/4 inch solid core door in a fully stopped frame, equipped with an automatic self-closing device and positive-latching hardware. In the adjacent section of the home that contains three resident bedrooms, the gas furnace and gas hot water heater are located in the facility's basement. A 1-3/4 inch solid core door equipped with an automatic self-closing device and positive latching hardware is located at the top of the stairs to create floor separation. A furnace inspection was completed on 10/15/25 by Elite Heating and Cooling, which reported that all furnaces were operating in safe condition. A water heater inspection was completed on 8/1/25 by licensed plumber, Chris Miller who reported that both water heaters were in good working condition and there were no signs of issues or concerns.

The facility is equipped with an approved pull station alarm system. The Bureau of Fire Services conducted an inspection of the facility on 07/17/2025 and determined the facility to be in substantial compliance with fire safety standards. At least one 5-pound multi-purpose fire extinguisher or equivalent is located on each occupied floor and in the basement. The facility is equipped with interconnected, hardwired smoke detection system, with battery backup, which was inspected by Summit Fire Protection on 01/22/2026 and was determined to be fully operational and in good condition. Smoke detectors are located in all sleeping areas, on each occupied floor, basement and living rooms.

Resident bedrooms were measured during the on-site inspection and have the following dimensions:

Bedroom #	Room Dimensions	Total Square Footage	Total Resident Beds
1	12 X 13'11"	167 square feet	1
2	12 X 13'11"	167 square feet	1
3	12 X 13'11"	167 square feet	1
4	12 X 13'11"	167 square feet	1
5	12 X 13'11"	167 square feet	2
6	12 X 13'11"	167 square feet	2

7	19'7" X 13'6"	264 square feet	2
8	10'3" X 13'4"	137 square feet	1
9	10'8" X 13'3"	141 square feet	1

The living, dining, and sitting room areas measure a total of 572 square feet of living space. This exceeds the minimum of 35 square feet per occupant requirement.

Based on the above information, it is concluded that this facility can accommodate twelve residents. It is the licensee's responsibility not to exceed the facility's licensed capacity.

B. Program Description

Admission and discharge policies, program statement, refund policy, personnel policies, emergency preparedness plans, standard procedures, and a visitation policy that addresses overnight visitors were reviewed and accepted as written.

The applicant intends to provide 24-hour supervision, protection and personal care to twelve (12) male and/or female ambulatory or non-ambulatory adults whose diagnosis is developmentally disabled, mentally illness, aged, physically handicapped and/or Alzheimer's disease in the least restrictive environment possible.

Country Blessings Retirement Living care includes assisting and encouraging residents' independence in personal care activities such as dressing, grooming and bathing. They will serve individuals with challenges associated with age, Alzheimer's disease, developmental disabilities and various physical and mental illnesses. Their goal is to provide a comfortable family-like atmosphere where a resident will feel like they are at home instead of a facility.

At Country Blessings Retirement Living, the applicant stated direct care staff will be trained to provide care for residents at different stages of dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Recognizing each resident with Alzheimer's disease as unique individuals, the applicant plans to create a secure, familiar environment by utilizing verbal and nonverbal communication techniques, including clear and simple language, patience, and observation of body language. The applicant plans to provide training to direct care staff, so direct care staff can recognize that behaviors are often a form of communication, reflecting unmet needs or discomfort. Country Blessings Retirement Living can provide residents with dementia/Alzheimer's with plenty of indoor and outdoor activities along with implementing chair, bed or door alarms if needed. Country Blessings Retirement Living also trains direct care workers on elopement risk and this policy will also be reviewed a staff meetings.

If required, behavioral intervention, crisis intervention programs and personal behavior support plans will be developed and identified in the *Assessment Plan for AFC Residents* for each resident's social, behavioral, and developmental needs and designed and implemented specific to each resident. These programs shall be

implemented only by trained staff, and only with the prior approval of the resident, guardian, and the responsible agency.

The applicant intends to accept residents from local community mental health agencies, local Department of Health and Human Services, programs or agencies working with the aged populations such as Senior Care Partners, private pay individuals, Adult Protective Services and Medicaid waiver as referral sources.

The applicant will ensure the availability of transportation services as agreed upon in the *Resident Care Agreement*, but shall ensure immediate emergency transportation through use of a recognized available community service or vehicle that is owned by the licensee, administrator, or direct care staff on duty.

The applicant will make provisions for a variety of leisure and recreational equipment. It is the intent of the applicant to utilize local community resources including libraries, local museums, shopping centers, and local parks for additional entertainment and leisure activities.

C. Applicant and Administrator Qualifications

Applicant Jill Gilbert has acknowledged sufficient financial resources to provide for the adequate care of the residents. The applicant provided an appropriate proposed budget which includes a loan amount that was taken out to purchase the facility. The applicant acknowledges the department may request an operational budget, invoices, purchase orders, receipts and other nonproprietary financial documents maintained in the normal course of business to demonstrate the provision of care and services for an Adult Foster Care facility.

Jill Gilbert has been identified as the Licensee and administrator for this facility. A licensing record clearance request was completed with no LEIN convictions recorded for licensee Jill Gilbert. Licensee Jill Gilbert submitted a medical clearance with a statement from a physician documenting Mrs. Gilberts good health, dated 12/01/2025. Mrs. Gilbert has a baseline screening for communicable diseases and records of illness on file along with a negative TB test dated 12/12/2023.

The licensee/administrator has provided documentation to satisfy the qualifications and training requirements identified in the administrative group home rules. Jill Gilbert has a current LPN license. Mrs. Gilbert reported that she worked at Green Acres of Mt. Pleasant from 2016-2022 as the director of nursing and then became the administrator from 2022-2025. From 2015- current, Jill Gilbert has been the admissions director at Ovid Healthcare Center. From 2014-2015, Mrs. Gilbert worked as a LPN at the Laurels of Carson City and Fulton provided direct care and passing medications. The applicant has several years of experience as an adult foster care licensee with direct care experience serving individuals with mental illness, developmentally disabilities, aged, Alzheimer's and physically handicapped. The applicant has provided assistance with activities of daily living, including personal care, medication administration, meal preparation, mobility assistance and behavioral support. The applicant also possesses

management experience involving staff supervision, compliance with licensing requirements, and oversight of resident care and documentation.

The staffing pattern for the original license of this 12 bed facility is adequate and includes a minimum of 1 staff –to-12 residents per shift. The applicant acknowledges that the staff –to- resident ratio will change to reflect any increase in the level of supervision, protection, or personal care required by the residents. The applicant has indicated that direct care staff will be awake during sleeping hours.

The applicant acknowledged that at no time will this facility rely on “roaming” staff or other staff that are on duty and working at another facility to be considered part of this facility’s staff to resident ratio or expected to assist in providing supervision, protection, or personal care to the resident population.

The applicant acknowledges an understanding of the qualifications, suitability, and training requirements for direct care staff prior to each person working in the facility in that capacity or being considered as part of the staff to resident ratio. The applicant acknowledged an understanding of the responsibility to assess the good moral character of employees and contractors who have regular, ongoing, “direct access” to residents or the resident information or both. The licensing consultant provided technical assistance on the process for obtaining criminal record checks utilizing the Michigan Long Term Care Partnership website (www.miltcpartnership.org) and the related documents required to be maintained in each employee’s record to demonstrate compliance. The applicant acknowledges their responsibility to obtain all required good moral character, medical, and training documentation and signatures that are to be completed prior to each direct care staff or volunteer working directly with residents. In addition, the applicant acknowledges their responsibility to maintain all required documentation in each employee’s record for each licensee or licensee designee, administrator, and direct care staff or volunteer and follow the retention schedule for those documents contained within each employee’s record.

The applicant acknowledges an understanding of the administrative rules regarding medication procedures and that only those direct care staff that have received medication training and have been determined competent by the licensee can administer medication to residents. In addition, the applicant has indicated that resident medication will be stored in a locked cabinet and that daily medication logs will be maintained on each resident receiving medication.

The applicant acknowledges an understanding of the administrative rules regarding the admission criteria and procedural requirements for accepting a resident into the home for adult foster care. The applicant acknowledges their responsibility to obtain the required written assessment plan, resident care agreement, and health care appraisal forms and signatures that are to be completed prior to, or at the time of each resident’s admission to the home as well as updating and completing those forms and obtaining new signatures for each resident on at least an annual basis. The applicant acknowledges their responsibility to maintain a current resident record on file in the

home for each resident and follow the retention schedule for all documents that are required to be maintained within each resident's record.

The applicant acknowledges an understanding of the administrative rules regarding the handling of resident funds and valuables and intends to comply. The applicant acknowledges recording each resident's funds and itemized transactions including payment for services. The applicant acknowledges this document will be created for each resident to document the date and amount of the adult foster care service fee paid each month and all the resident's personal money transactions that have been agreed to be managed by the applicant.

The applicant acknowledges an understanding of the administrative rules regarding informing each resident of their resident rights and providing them with a copy of those rights. The applicant indicated that it is their intent to achieve and maintain compliance with these requirements.

The applicant acknowledges an understanding of the administrative rules regarding the written and verbal reporting of incidents and accidents and the responsibility to conduct an immediate investigation of the cause. The applicant has indicated their intention to achieve and maintain compliance with the reporting and investigation of each incident and accident involving a resident, employee, and/or visitor.

The applicant acknowledges their responsibility to provide a written discharge notice to the appropriate parties when a 30-day or less than 30-day discharge is requested.

The applicant acknowledges that residents with mobility impairments may only reside on the main floor of the facility.

D. Rule/Statutory Violations

Compliance with the licensing act and administrative rules related to the physical plant has been determined. Compliance with administrative rules related to quality of care will be assessed during the temporary license period.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend issuance of a temporary license to this AFC adult large group home with a maximum capacity of 12 residents.

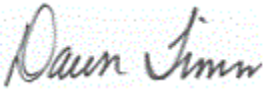


05/08/2026

Amanda Blasius
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



05/08/2026

Dawn N. Timm
Area Manager

Date