STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
DIRECTOR

July 24, 2026

Laura Ditch
3375 West Walton Blvd.
Waterford, MI 48329

RE: License #: AF630381043
Investigation #: 2026A0465022
Standish Home for the Elderly

Dear Laura Ditch:

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.

A six-month provisional license is recommended. If you do not contest the issuance of a provisional license, you must indicate so in writing; this may be included in your corrective action plan or in a separate document. If you contest the issuance of a provisional license, you must notify this office in writing, and an administrative hearing will be scheduled. Even if you contest the issuance of a provisional license, you must still submit an acceptable corrective action plan.

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.

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 (248) 972-9136.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Gonzalez

Stephanie Gonzalez, LCSW
Adult Foster Care Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Cadillac Place
3044 West Grand Boulevard
2nd Floor Annex, Suite 2-730
Detroit, MI 48202

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	AF630381043
Investigation #:	2026A0465022
Complaint Receipt Date:	04/01/2026
Investigation Initiation Date:	04/06/2026
Report Due Date:	05/31/2026
Licensee Name:	Laura Ditch
Licensee Address:	3375 West Walton Blvd. Waterford, MI 48329
Licensee Telephone #:	(248) 636-3619
Name of Facility:	Standish Home for the Elderly
Facility Address:	3375 West Walton Blvd. Waterford, MI 48329
Facility Telephone #:	(248) 636-3619
Original Issuance Date:	05/27/2016
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	11/27/2024
Expiration Date:	11/26/2026
Capacity:	6
Program Type:	PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED ALZHEIMERS AGED

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Direct care staff are financially exploiting residents by using their debit cards.	Yes
Additional findings	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

04/01/2026	Special Investigation Intake 2026A0465022
04/07/2026	Special Investigation Initiated - On-site I conducted an onsite investigation at the facility. I completed a walk-through of the facility, observed residents, reviewed facility files and interviewed direct care staff, Sara Rogers and licensee designee, Laura Ditch
04/07/2026	APS Referral Adult Protective Services (APS) Referral made; Denied
04/09/2026	Contact – Telephone call made I spoke to Guardian A1 via telephone
04/09/2026	Contact - Document Received Facility documents received via email
04/16/2026	Contact - Telephone call made I called Guardian A1; Left voicemail and requested return call
05/04/2026	Contact - Telephone call made I attempted to speak to Guardian A1; Called a secondary number that is out of service
05/26/2026	Contact - Telephone call made I attempted to speak to Guardian A1; No answer; Left follow-up message.
05/26/2026	Contact - Telephone call made I spoke to direct care staff, Christina Sherman, via telephone
05/26/2026	Contact - Telephone call made I spoke to direct care staff, Sarah Rogers, via telephone

05/27/2026	Contact - Telephone call made I spoke to licensee, Laura Ditch, via telephone
05/27/2026	Contact - Telephone call made I spoke to Detective Kyle Hulscher/Waterford Township Police Department, via telephone; Detective Hulscher requested that I hold off on my investigation pending outcome of his investigation
05/27/2026	Contact - Telephone call made I spoke to Jay Calewarts regarding this investigation; Approval to place investigation on hold for up to 30 days
06/24/2026	Contact - Document Sent I sent an email to Detective Hulscher requesting an update
06/24/2026	Contact - Telephone call received I received a call from Detective Hulscher with updates; Stated he is still awaiting subpoena information but may proceed with what he has in the next week; Will keep me updated
07/08/2026	Contact – Telephone call received I spoke to Detective Hulscher via telephone
07/22/2026	Contact – Telephone call made I spoke to Guardian A1 via telephone
07/22/2026	Contact - Document Received I received documents from Detective Hulscher
07/22/2026	Contact - Telephone call received I spoke to Detective Hulscher via telephone
07/22/2026	Contact - Telephone call made I attempted to call Sarah Wrathell via telephone; voicemail full; sent text message requesting return call
07/22/2026	Exit Conference I conducted an Exit Conference with licensee, Laura Ditch, via telephone
07/23/2026	Contact – Telephone call made I spoke to Ms. Ditch via telephone

ALLEGATION:

Direct care staff are financially exploiting residents by using their debit cards.

INVESTIGATION:

On 4/1/2026, a complaint was received, alleging that direct care staff are financially exploiting residents by using their debit cards. The complaint did not specify which resident this allegation pertained to; however, on 4/7/2026, during my onsite investigation, licensee designee, Laura Ditch, informed me that this complaint was specific to Resident A. On 5/27/2026, I spoke to Waterford Township Police Department detective, Kyle Hulscher, who informed me that he had an open criminal investigation related to direct care staff, Sara Wrathell, and financial exploitation of Resident A.

On 4/7/2026, I conducted an onsite investigation at the facility. The home specializes in caring for the Alzheimer's/aged population. At the time of my onsite investigation, there were four residents residing at the facility. I completed a walk-through of the facility, observed residents, reviewed facility files and interviewed licensee, Laura Ditch. I observed the residents to be properly dressed and with adequate hygiene. I observed the home to be in good condition.

On 4/9/2026 and 7/22/2026, I spoke to Guardian A1 via telephone. Guardian A1 stated, "I reviewed (Resident A's) bank statements back in March 2026 and noticed a lot of charges. I went to visit (Resident A) and when I showed him the charges, he said he did not buy the majority of the items. He told me that he gave staff his debit card to buy him cigarettes and thought maybe a staff used it for their own personal use. I notified the police. (Resident A) passed away on 3/26/2026. I believe Laura Ditch knew staff were using his card and she was supposed to write down every transaction and she didn't. They never documented every time they took his debit card and used it. (Resident A) was vulnerable and they should have monitored him. This could have been prevented."

On 4/7/2026, I spoke to direct care staff, Sara Rogers, while onsite at the facility, and I conducted a follow-up interview by phone on 5/26/2026. Ms. Rogers stated that she has worked at the facility for one year. Ms. Rogers stated, "(Resident A) no longer lives here. We did not handle any money for him. I never took money from any resident. I have never taken any items from a resident. I have never taken anything from a resident." Ms. Rogers denied any knowledge of accepting or taking money from Resident A.

I spoke to licensee, Laura Ditch, who stated, "When (Resident A) lived here, he was overusing his credit cards. But I told his family this information and they did nothing. He had memory intact and could call the bank himself to manage his money and spend it. He kept spending money. He recently passed away. We did not manage his money. I knew nothing about his spending or what he was buying."

On 5/26/2026, I spoke to direct care staff, Christina Sherman, via telephone. Ms. Sherman stated that she has worked at the facility for 10 years. Ms. Sherman stated, "(Resident A) was the only resident that had a debit card. His family gave him a card and he used it when he chose to. We didn't monitor or know when it was being used. I never used his debit card, and I never took money from (Resident A). He was very alert and coherent, and he managed his card by himself." Ms. Sherman denied knowledge of this complaint being true.

On 5/27/2026 and 6/24/2026, I spoke to Detective Hulscher with the Waterford Township Police Department via telephone. Detective Hulscher reported that his investigation was ongoing and requested that I hold off on my investigation while he conducted his criminal investigation. On 7/8/2026 and 7/22/206, I spoke to Detective Hulscher via telephone, and he stated that his investigation was almost complete. Detective Hulscher stated that he reviewed Resident A's bank statements, as well as documents from Amazon. Detective Hulscher stated that the evidence shows that former direct care staff, Sarah Wrathell, created an Amazon account and linked Resident A's debit card to the account. Detective Hulscher stated that between the months of September 2025 and March 2026, Ms. Wrathell had approximately 249 items delivered to her private residence, totaling $11,000. Detective Hulscher stated that he interviewed Ms. Wrathell on 7/8/2026 and presented the evidence related to his investigation. Detective Hulscher stated that Ms. Wrathell admitted that the Amazon account was hers and that the packages were paid using Resident A's debit card and shipped to her home. Ms. Wrathell told Detective Hulscher that Resident A asked her to purchase the items and have them shipped to her home, so she could later bring them to work and he could hand them out as gifts to other staff at the facility. Detective Hulscher stated that he interviewed all direct care staff from the facility, and all staff denied ever receiving gifts or items from Ms. Wrathell or Resident A. Detective Hulscher stated that he will be forwarding his investigation report to the prosecutor's office to review criminal charges against Ms. Wrathell for illegal use of a credit card and elder abuse.

On 7/22/2026, I reviewed the *Amazon Transactions* document, which documented an account with the shipping address listed under the name "Sarah Wrathell." The transactions sheet listed over 249 purchases, which included items such as matching couples rings, women's fashion Halloween canvas sneakers, bridal shoes, Disney Stitch clogs for women, multiple Visa gift cards, a Victoria's Secret perfume set, a makeup set for teens, lingerie, various jewelry and makeup items, clothing items, groceries, car accessories, etc.

On 7/22/2026, I attempted to speak to former direct care staff, Sarah Wrathell, via telephone; however, her voicemail was full, and I was unable to leave a voice message. I sent Ms. Wrathell a text message and have not received a return call as of the date of this report.

On 7/22/2026, I spoke to Ms. Ditch, who stated that Ms. Wrathell worked at the facility for approximately seven years, with multiple lapses in employment at the facility during this timeframe. Ms. Ditch stated that she terminated Ms. Wrathell's employment on 5/28/2026 due to her lack of work ethic and frequently arriving at work late. Ms. Ditch stated that she hired Ms. Rogers approximately one year ago.

On 7/22/2026, I conducted an exit conference with Ms. Ditch, via telephone. Ms. Ditch stated the following, "I had no idea that Ms. Wrathell was using (Resident A's) debit card to order items on Amazon or have items shipped to her home. I had no way to know because we do not manage resident funds here. I do not believe that (Resident A) asked Ms. Wrathell to purchase and mail items to her home so that he could give them to other caregivers as gifts. No one here ever received gifts. I agree this was a terrible situation, but I don't understand why I am being punished for something that I did not do." Ms. Ditch stated that she is in agreement with the findings of the report and is in agreement with the recommendation of a six-month provisional license.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.637	**Handling of resident funds and valuables.**
	(11) A licensee, staff, volunteers, members of the household, and their family members cannot accept, take, or borrow money, resident funds, or valuables from a resident, even with the consent of the resident.
ANALYSIS:	Based on the information gathered through my investigation, there is sufficient information to conclude that former direct care staff, Sara Wrathell, took money from Resident A. According to the Amazon Transactions document, between September 2025 and March 2026, Resident A's debit card was billed in the amount of $11,000 for over 249 orders, which were delivered to Ms. Wrathell's home address. On 7/8/2026, Ms. Wrathell admitted to Detective Hulscher that she did create and purchase items using an Amazon account that was directly linked to Resident A's debit card. Ms. Wrathell admitted that the items purchased using Resident A's debit card were shipped to her home. Based on the information above, there is sufficient information to confirm that Ms. Wrathell accepted and used Resident A's money to purchase items from Amazon. Taking money from a resident reflects a breakdown in the safeguards designed to protect vulnerable adults. Exploitation by direct care staff raises concern about the adequacy of supervision, the integrity of those responsible for the resident's welfare, and whether the resident's financial interests are being protected. It indicates that residents are not receiving the

	advocacy and oversight needed to ensure their safety and well-being in the home.
CONCLUSION:	**VIOLATION ESTABLISHED**

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.681	**Resident rights; licensee responsibilities.**
	(1) A resident shall be treated with dignity and respect, free from exploitation, and protected and safe.
ANALYSIS:	Based on the information gathered through my investigation, there is sufficient information to conclude that former direct care staff, Sara Wrathell, financially exploited Resident A. According to the Amazon Transactions document, between September 2025 and March 2026, Resident A's debit card was billed in the amount of $11,000 for over 249 orders, which were delivered to Ms. Wrathell's home address. On 7/8/2026, Ms. Wrathell admitted to Detective Hulscher that she did create and purchase items using an Amazon account that was directly linked to Resident A's debit card. Ms. Wrathell admitted that the items purchased using Resident A's debit card were shipped to her home. Based on the information above, there is sufficient information to confirm that Ms. Wrathell accepted and used Resident A's money to purchase items from Amazon, resulting in financial exploitation of Resident A. Financial exploitation reflects a breakdown in the safeguards designed to protect vulnerable adults. Exploitation by direct care staff raises concern about the adequacy of supervision, the integrity of those responsible for the resident's welfare, and whether the resident's financial interests are being protected. It indicates that residents are not receiving the advocacy and oversight needed to ensure their safety and protection in the home.
CONCLUSION:	**VIOLATION ESTABLISHED**

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:

INVESTIGATION:

On 7/22/2026, I conducted a review of the Michigan Workforce Background Check System for the facility. I determined that Ms. Rogers and Ms. Wrathell were not listed in the system as having completed fingerprinting. There were no staff connected to Standish Home for the Elderly (AF630381043) in the Michigan Workforce Background Check System.

On 7/23/2026, I spoke to Ms. Ditch, who stated, “I did get the staff fingerprinted. I did it at a place by my house. I don’t know if it was through the website, but I know all staff were fingerprinted. I have paperwork. I am not sure that I can send it to you. I can’t mail it to you. It was very expensive last time to send items to you. My printer is broken.” I informed Ms. Ditch that she can also take a photo of the items and send it to me via text, which she stated she will try to do at a future time. Later this same day, Ms. Ditch sent me a text message, stating that she forgot to complete fingerprinting for Ms. Rogers and that she did not utilize the Michigan Workforce Background Check System to complete fingerprinting for Ms. Wrathell.

APPLICABLE RULE	
MCL 400.734b	**Employing or contracting with certain individuals providing direct services to residents; prohibitions; criminal history check; exemptions; written consent and identification; conditional employment; use of criminal history record information; disclosure; determination of existence of national criminal history; failure to conduct criminal history check; automated fingerprint identification system database; electronic web-based system; costs; definitions.**
	(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection or subsection (6), an adult foster care facility shall not employ or independently contract with an individual who has direct access to residents until the adult foster care facility or staffing agency has conducted a criminal history check in compliance with this section or has received criminal history record information in compliance with subsections (3) and (11). This subsection and subsection (1) do not apply to an individual who is employed by or under contract to an adult foster care facility before April 1, 2006. On or before April 1, 2011, an individual who is exempt under this subsection and who has not been the subject of a criminal history check conducted in compliance with this section shall provide the department of state police a set of fingerprints and the department of state police shall input those fingerprints into the automated fingerprint identification system database established under subsection (14). An individual who is

	exempt under this subsection is not limited to working within the adult foster care facility with which he or she is employed by or under independent contract with on April 1, 2006 but may transfer to another adult foster care facility, mental health facility, or covered health facility. If an individual who is exempt under this subsection is subsequently convicted of a crime or offense described under subsection (1)(a) to (g) or found to be the subject of a substantiated finding described under subsection (1)(i) or an order or disposition described under employment or denied employment.
ANALYSIS:	On 7/22/2026, I conducted a review of the Workforce Background Check System for the facility. I determined that direct care staff, Ms. Rogers and Ms. Wrathell, were not listed in the system as having completed fingerprinting. Based on the information above, there is sufficient information to conclude that Ms. Ditch has not completed the required criminal history/fingerprint checks for all direct care staff prior to having contact with residents.
CONCLUSION:	**VIOLATION ESTABLISHED**

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend the issuance of a six-month provisional license.

Stephanie Gonzalez

7/24/2026

Stephanie Gonzalez Date
Licensing Consultant

Approved By:

Kristen Donnay

WOC Area Manager for 07/24/2026

Denise Y. Nunn Date
Area Manager