



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA  
DIRECTOR

August 7, 2024

Jeffrey Shepard  
Walnut Ridge Country Estate, LLC  
P.O. Box 518  
Stockbridge, MI 49205

RE: License #: AL330280995  
Investigation #: 2024A0466046  
Walnut Ridge Country Estate, LLC

Dear Mr. Shepard:

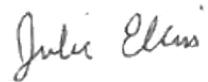
Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above referenced facility. Due to the violations identified in the report, a written corrective action plan is required. The corrective action plan is due 15 days from the date of this letter and must include the following:

- 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) 284-9727.

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**

<b>License #:</b>	AL330280995
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2024A0466046
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	06/20/2024
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	06/24/2024
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	08/19/2024
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Walnut Ridge Country Estate, LLC
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	4077 Oakley Rd. Stockbridge, MI 49285
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(517) 851-7501
<b>Administrator:</b>	Jeffrey Shepard
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	Jeffrey Shepard
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Walnut Ridge Country Estate, LLC
<b>Facility Address:</b>	4077 Oakley Rd. Stockbridge, MI 49285
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(517) 851-7501
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	12/27/2007
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	12/30/2023
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	12/29/2025
<b>Capacity:</b>	20
<b>Program Type:</b>	DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED MENTALLY ILL AGED

**II. ALLEGATION:**

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
The facility received a disapproved fire safety report.	Yes

**III. METHODOLOGY**

06/20/2024	Special Investigation Intake 2024A0466046.
06/24/2024	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site.
06/25/2024	Contact - Document Sent to LD Jeff Shepard.
06/25/2024	Exit Conference LD Jeff Shepard.
08/05/2024	APS- referral not required, no suspected abuse/neglect.

**ALLEGATION:** The facility received a disapproved fire safety report.

**INVESTIGATION:**

On 06/20/2024, the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) provided the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) with an annual *Inspection Report* that documented Walnut Ridge Country Estate, LLC had a disapproved, substantial noncompliance fire safety report. I reviewed the *Inspection Report* completed by BFS Fire Marshal Brian Davis. The *Inspection Report* documented the facility's safety certification was disapproved and found to be in substantial non-compliance with fire safety rules. The facility received a disapproved fire safety report on 05/15/2024 and the following deficiencies were noted:

"A fire safety inspection was completed on this date. The following deficiencies must be corrected. Disapproved status.

1 - To ensure operational integrity, the fire alarm system shall have an approved maintenance and testing program complying with the applicable requirements of NFPA 70 and NFPA 72. 9.6.1.5.

Inspector comments: Facility did not have a current fire alarm inspection within the last year.

2 - All automatic sprinkler and standpipe systems shall be inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25. 9.7.5.

Inspector comments: Facility did not have a current sprinkler inspection within the last year.

3 - For large facilities, portable fire extinguishers shall be provided in accordance with 9.7.4.1. 33.3.3.5.6.

Inspector comments: Facility's fire extinguishers have not been serviced within the last year."

On 06/25/2024, I conducted an unannounced investigation and interviewed licensee designee Jeffrey Shepard who reported that at the time of the fire inspection and currently the facility did not have documentation that the fire alarm system and sprinkler system had been inspected within the last year and the portable fire extinguishers had not been serviced within the last year.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.15209</b>	<b>Home records generally.</b>
	<b>(1) A licensee shall keep, maintain, and make available for department review, all the following home records: (p) Fire detection and sprinkler equipment inspection and approval records, if applicable.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	The licensee received a substantial non-compliance Bureau of Fire Services <i>Inspection Report</i> dated 05/15/2024 in part because the facility did not have a current fire alarm inspection within the last year and the facility did not have a fire alarm system or a sprinkler system inspection completed within the last year. On 06/25/2024 when I conducted an unannounced investigation and met with licensee designee Shepard he could not provide verification of current fire alarm and current sprinkler system inspection. Therefore a violation has been established.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.15403</b>	<b>Maintenance of premises.</b>
	<b>(1) A home shall be constructed, arranged, and maintained to provide adequately for the health, safety, and well-being of occupants.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	The licensee received a substantial non-compliance report dated 05/15/2024 from the Bureau of Fire Services after multiple violations that impacted the health and safety of residents were identified. On 06/25/2024 when I conducted an unannounced investigation and met with licensee designee Shepard he could not provide verification that any of the violations cited in the <i>Inspection Report</i> had been rectified. Therefore a violation has been established.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

**IV. RECOMMENDATION**

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

*Julie Elkins*

08/06/2024

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Julie Elkins  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

*Dawn Timm*

08/07/2024

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Dawn N. Timm  
Area Manager

Date