

**Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
Health Facilities Division
Adult Services Civil Penalty Citation**

Date: October 4, 2023
Program Name: River Valley Place of Ft Madison
Address: 5025 River Valley Road Dubuque, IA 52002
Type of Action: 111565-I
Date(s) of Action: 9/5/2023, 9/6/2023
Citation # 10052

State Rule #	State Rule	Amount of Civil Penalty
67.2(3)	<u>67.2(3) The program shall follow the policies and procedures established by the program.</u> Based on interview and record review the Program failed to follow established policies and procedures for door alarms and elopement drills affecting 1 of 1 tenants reviewed for Incident #111565-I (Tenant #1). Findings follow: Record review on 9/5/23 revealed the following: Tenant #1's Service Plan dated 7/25/22 noted he required hourly safety checks due to short term memory impairment, needed redirection when mixed up on where he was in the building, ambulated with a walker with a risk for falls, and needed total assistance to exit the building. A Global Deterioration Scale (GDS) dated 7/25/22 indicated Tenant #1 was staged at 4 which indicated moderate cognitive decline. On 2/20/23 his GDS was staged at 5 which indicated moderately severe cognitive decline. An Incident Report dated 2/17/23 revealed Tenant #1 walked out the front door and a visitor found him walking around the parking lot looking for his car. She reported this to Staff A and they redirected him back into the building. The family took him to the hospital for an assessment. When he returned 30 minutes checks were implemented until he moved to the memory care. An Internal Investigation dated 2/20/23 documented the door opened at approximately 5:14 p.m. and at approximately 5:30 p.m., a visitor notified Staff A Tenant #1 was outside looking for his car. The Summary of Investigative Conclusions noted the pagers were sending the alarms however, no one checked to see who went out or was coming in. Tenant #1 was outside approximately 13 minutes and the temperature outside was 29 degrees. The Door Alarm Response procedure revealed staff were to immediately check inside and outside of the door that was breached. Staff could reset the door alarm only after knowing who came in or out.	\$2500.00

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	Quarterly Elopement Drill Instructions noted a drill was to be completed quarterly and rotated through each shift so that all shifts participated in at least one elopement drill in a year. Further review revealed door alarms were never to be cleared without the proper investigation. Team members were to look inside and outside of the community to determine why the door alarmed, physically exit and search the perimeter. Team members who cleared an alarm without following procedure would be disciplined, up to and including termination. Employee Investigation Questions conducted by the Administrator revealed Staff A stated the front door alarmed. Staff B said the pager indicated the front door alarmed, and Staff C reported no door alarmed. According to the state climatologist the weather in Fort Madison on 2/17/23 around 5:15 p.m. was 28 degrees Fahrenheit with relative humidity of 74%. The sky was clear with calm winds. The Program was located in a semi-remote heavily wooded area approximately a quarter mile from a 4 lane highway. When interviewed on 9/5/23 Staff A stated she worked for the Program for 8 years as an administrative assistant and went to part time last year. She stated she did not see Tenant #1 exit the building as she was in the nurse's office filing paperwork. After a visitor told her he was outside, she went to him and he returned to the building. Staff A recalled he wore clothing appropriate for the weather including a jacket and hat. She reported she was unsure what to do if the door alarms sounded and she did not have a pager. She commented she did not recall the procedure for door alarms. Staff B and Staff C no longer worked for the Program and could not be reached for an interview. When interviewed on 9/5/23 at 5:11 p.m. the Administrator confirmed no quarterly drills had been completed in the past 7 months prior to the elopement and none of the staff were disciplined for failure to follow the procedure for door alarms. She stated she conducted elopement drills and reeducation to all staff immediately after this incident.	
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