

**STATE OF TENNESSEE
BEFORE THE HEALTH FACILITIES COMMISSION**

In The Matter of:)	
)	
American House West Knoxville,)	
Assisted Care Living Facility,)	
License No. 126,)	Case No. 2024041271
)	
Respondent.)	
)	
Knoxville, Tennessee)	

CONSENT ORDER

This matter came to be heard before the Tennessee Health Facilities Commission (“Commission”), by and through the Office of Legal Services, and American House West Knoxville (“Respondent”) that the Commission adopt this Consent Order, the terms of which have been agreed upon by the parties, as signified by their signatures below.

I. JURISDICTION

1. The Commission is empowered to license and regulate hospitals, recuperation centers, nursing homes, homes for the aged, residential HIV supportive living facilities, assisted-care living facilities, home care organizations, residential hospices, birthing centers, prescribed childcare centers, renal dialysis clinics, ambulatory surgical treatment centers, outpatient diagnostic centers, adult care homes, and traumatic brain injury residential homes. T.C.A. § 68-11-202(a)(1).

2. The Commission has the authority to conduct reviews of all facilities licensed under this part in order to determine compliance with fire and life safety code rules as promulgated by the Commission. T.C.A. § 68-11-202(b)(1)(A).
3. “Assisted-care living facility” (“ACLF”) means a facility, building, establishment, complex or distinct part thereof that accepts primarily aged persons for domiciliary care and services. T.C.A. § 68-11-201(4)(A) and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0720-26-.02(7).
4. “Primarily aged” means that a minimum of fifty-one percent (51%) of the population of the facility is at least sixty-two (62) years of age. Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0720-26-.02(34).
5. An assisted-care living facility shall provide on site to its residents room and board and non-medical living assistance services appropriate to each resident’s needs, such as assistance with bathing, dressing, grooming, preparation of meals and other activities of daily living. T.C.A. § 68-11-201(4)(B) and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0720-26-.02(2).
6. The Commission shall conduct on-site inspections and investigations as may be necessary to safeguard, and ensure at all times, the public’s health, safety, and welfare. T.C.A. § 68-11-210(c).
7. Upon a finding by the Commission that an ACLF has violated any provision of Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 68-11- 201, et seq., or the rules promulgated pursuant thereto, action may be taken, upon proper notice to the licensee, to impose a civil penalty, deny, suspend, or revoke its license. T.C.A. § 68-11-207.

II. STIPULATIONS OF FACT

8. At all times pertinent hereto, Respondent, American House West Knoxville, 8024 Gleason Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919, was licensed by the Commission as an ACLF, having

been granted license number 126 on May 15, 2000, which currently has an expiration date of April 21, 2025.

9. On or about November 12, 2024, Commission surveyors conducted a Life Safety Code survey at Respondent's facility.
10. On or about November 12, 2024, Respondent's facility failed to evacuate one resident within thirteen (13) minutes or less during a fire drill.
11. Respondent's Administrator and Maintenance Director were present with Commission surveyors when the deficiency above was observed and acknowledged.
12. On or about November 12, 2024, a portable space heater was observed in operation in a resident's room in Respondent's facility.
13. Respondent's Maintenance Director was present when the heater was found and admitted to the deficiency.
14. On or about November 12, 2024, seven (7) multi-plug adapters without circuit breakers were observed in four (4) residents' rooms.
15. Respondent's Maintenance Director was present when the plugs were found and acknowledged the deficiency.
16. Respondent failed to conduct all disaster drills annually for flood, bomb threat, and severe hot/severe cold.
17. On or about November 12, 2024, Respondent's Maintenance Director and Administrator admitted that the drills were not conducted as required.

21. The facts in paragraphs sixteen (16) and (17) are sufficient to constitute a violation of Tenn. Comp. R. and Reg. 0720-26-.16 (2) [Disaster Preparedness], the relevant portion of which reads as follows:

- (2) An ACLF shall comply with the following:
 - (a) Maintain a detailed log with staff signatures designating training each employee receives regarding disaster preparedness.
 - (b) Train all employees annually as required in the plans listed above and keep each employee informed with respect to the employee's duties under the plans.
 - (c) Exercise each of the plans listed above annually.

IV. STIPULATED DISPOSITION

For the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this cause, the Commission and Respondent agree to the following settlement terms:

- 22. Respondent understands the allegations, charges, and stipulations in this Order. Entry into this Consent Order by the Respondent does not constitute an accord on its part as to the accuracy of the Commission's findings and conclusions drawn therefrom.
- 23. Respondent understands the rights found in the Code, Rules, and the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 4-5-101 thru 4-5-404, including the right to a hearing, the right to appear personally and by legal counsel, the right to confront and to cross-examine witnesses who would testify against Respondent, the right to testify and to present evidence on Respondent's own behalf, as well as to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, as

well as the right to appeal for judicial review. Respondent voluntarily waives these rights in order to avoid further administrative action.

24. Respondent agrees that presentation of this Order to the Commission and the Commission's consideration of it and all matters divulged during that process shall not constitute unfair disclosure such that the Commission or any of its members become prejudiced requiring their disqualification from hearing this matter should this Order not be ratified. All matters, admissions, and statements disclosed during the attempted ratification process shall not be used against the Respondent in any subsequent proceeding unless independently entered into evidence or introduced as admissions.
25. Respondent agrees that facsimile/PDF copies of this Order, including facsimile/PDF signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as originals.
26. Respondent also agrees that the Commission may issue this Order without further process. If the Commission rejects this Order for any reason, it will be of no force or effect for either party.
27. Respondent agrees that the facility has not received any threats or promises of any kind by the State or any agent or representative thereof, except such as is detailed herein.

V. ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, Respondent, for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this cause, agrees to the following:

28. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance with facility policies and admission agreements for the one (1) resident who failed to evacuate in the required time. **Failure to**

submit acceptable proof of compliance will result in the assessment of additional Civil Monetary Penalties for the inappropriately placed resident.

29. Respondent is hereby assessed one (1) Civil Monetary Penalty in the amount of **one thousand dollars (\$1000.00)**. This CMP is issued for a violation of Tenn. Comp. R. and Reg. 0720-26-.10 (2)(h) [Life Safety] – failure to prohibit open flame and portable space heaters.
30. Respondent is hereby assessed one (1) Civil Monetary Penalty in the amount of **five hundred dollars (\$500.00)**. This CMP is issued for a violation of Tenn. Comp. R. and Reg. 0720-26-.10 (5)(f) [Life Safety] – failure to ensure that power strips are equipped with circuit breakers.
31. Respondent is hereby assessed one (1) Civil Monetary Penalty in the amount of **five hundred dollars (\$500.00)**. This CMP is issued for a violation of Tenn. Comp. R. and Reg. 0720-26-.16 (2) [Disaster Preparedness] – failure to conduct the required drills annually.
32. The total assessed CMP amount is **two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00)**, unless acceptable proof of compliance is not furnished as required above in ¶ 29, in which case additional Civil Monetary Penalties may be assessed in an amount to be determined by the Commission.
33. Payment shall be submitted to the following address within **thirty (30) calendar days** of the effective date of this Order.

**Tennessee Health Facilities Commission
Attention: Disciplinary Coordinator
665 Mainstream Drive, Second Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243**

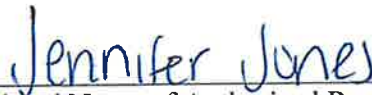
**PLEASE DO NOT REMIT PAYMENT UNTIL THE CONSENT ORDER HAS
BEEN RATIFIED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION**

34. Each condition of discipline herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

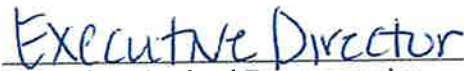
APPROVED FOR ENTRY:



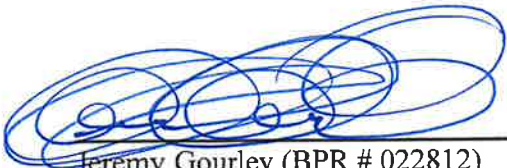
Signature of Authorized Representative
American House West Knoxville
License No. 126
Respondent



Printed Name of Authorized Representative



Title of Authorized Representative



Jeremy Gourley (BPR # 022812)
Senior Associate General Counsel
Health Facilities Commission
Office of Legal Services
Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
502 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Office: (615) 741-2364
Fax: (615) 741-9884
Email: Jeremy.J.Gourley@tn.gov

Approval by the Commission

Upon the agreement of the parties and the record as a whole, this **CONSENT ORDER** was approved as a **FINAL ORDER** by a majority of a quorum of the Health Facilities Commission at a public meeting of the Commission and signed this 28th day of May, 2025.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that the agreement of the parties does hereby become the Final Order of the Commission.



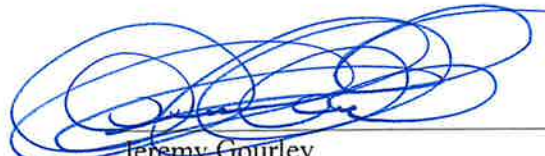
Chairperson
Health Facilities Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of this document has been served upon the Respondent, American House West Knoxville, c/o Jason Lundy, Esq., Ice Miller, 200 W. Madison Street Suite 3500, Chicago, Illinois 60606, via electronic mail to:

Jason.lundy@icemiller.com

This 28th day of May, 2025.



Jeremy Gourley
Senior Associate General Counsel