

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE BOARD
FOR LICENSING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

IN THE MATTER OF:)

Dominion Senior Living of Hixson)
2143 North Point Blvd.)
Chattanooga, TN 37343)

Case #: 201901078


License No. 00000429)

CONSENT ORDER

This matter came to be heard before the Tennessee Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities (hereinafter "the Board") on the 5th day of June, 2019, pursuant to the request of the Tennessee Department of Health, by and through the Office of General Counsel, and **Dominion Senior Living of Hixson** (hereinafter "Respondent") that the Board adopt this Consent Order, the terms of which have been agreed upon by the parties, as signified by their signatures below.

Respondent, by signature to this Consent Order, waives the right to a contested case hearing and any and all rights to judicial review of this matter.

Respondent agrees that presentation to and consideration of this Consent Order by the Board for ratification and all matters divulged during that process shall not constitute unfair disclosure such that the Board or any of its members shall be prejudiced to the extent that requires their disqualification from hearing this matter should the Consent Order not be ratified. Likewise, all matters, admissions, and statements disclosed or exchanged during the attempted ratification process shall not be used against Respondent in any subsequent proceeding unless

 Initial

independently entered into evidence or introduced as admissions.

JURISDICTION

The Board has the power 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 child care centers, renal dialysis clinics, ambulatory surgical treatment centers, outpatient diagnostic centers, adult care homes, and traumatic brain injury residential homes. Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-11-202. Further, TENN. CODE ANN. § 68-11-202(b)(1)(A) gives the Department of Health (“Department”) the authority to conduct reviews of assisted-care living facilities to determine compliance with fire and life safety code regulations promulgated by the Board.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-11-210 provides that the Department 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. The Board has the authority to suspend or revoke the license of any facility licensed under Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-11-201 *et. seq.* The Board may also place a facility on probation. Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-11-207(f)(2). If the Board determines during or at the end of the probation that the facility is not taking steps to correct non-compliance or otherwise not responding in good faith pursuant to the plan of correction, the board may take any additional action as authorized by law Tenn. Code Ann. 68-11-207(f)(8).

The Board is also authorized to establish a system for assessing civil monetary penalties for assisted-care living facilities, adult care homes and traumatic brain injury residential homes that are in serious violation of state laws and regulations, resulting in endangerment to the health,

 Initial

safety and welfare of residents. Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-11-213(i)(2) and Tenn. Comp. R. & Reg. 1200-08-25-.05(4),(5).

Upon a finding by the Board that an assisted-care living facility has violated any provision of the Health Facilities and Resources Act, Part 2 – Regulation of Health and Related Facilities 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. Tenn. Comp. R. & Reg. 1200-08-25-.05(4). The Board has established by rule a schedule designating the minimum and maximum civil penalties which may be assessed. Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-11-213(i)(2) and Tenn. Comp. R. & Reg. 1200-08-25-.05(4),(5)

Proceedings for disciplinary action against a facility are conducted in accordance with the Tennessee Administrative Procedures Act, Title 4, Chapter 5, of Tenn. Code Ann. Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1200-08-25-.05(7). A Respondent in a disciplinary action is entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to personally appear before the Board, to present witnesses, to have subpoenas issued and to receive thirty (30) days' notice of the charges before being required to appear for a hearing. A Respondent who cannot afford legal counsel may be eligible for free or low-cost counsel. Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-101, *et seq.*

STIPULATIONS OF FACT

1 At all times pertinent hereto, **Dominion Senior Living of Hixson**, 2143 Northpoint Blvd, Chattanooga, TN 37343, has been licensed as an Assisted-Care Living Facility by the Board, having been issued license number 00000429 on February 13, 2017. Respondent has an active license with an expiration date of February 12, 2020.

2 On or about February 12, 2019, surveyors conducted a complaint survey at the

 Initial

Respondent facility. During this survey, the surveyors observed serious violations of state laws and regulations resulting in endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of residents.

3. Resident #1 was admitted to the facility in January 2019 with diagnoses of major neurocognitive disorder with behavior features, arthritis, and history of colon cancer.
4. Resident #1 was independent with ambulation, but wandered, due to short-term memory loss.
5. Resident #1 resided in the secure locked memory care unit of the facility. Per Resident #1's care plan, staff were to check on him every two (2) hours.
6. On or about January 18, 2019, at approximately 6:00 PM, Resident #1 eloped from the facility by exiting the 2100 hall exit doors and climbing over the facility's fence. The facility's exit doors alarmed and staff reset them, but did not check to see Resident #1's whereabouts. Resident #1 walked to a nearby house and was taken to his former residence.
7. At approximately 7:00 PM, Chattanooga Police received a call that Resident #1 had been located at his former home. Resident #1's spouse then returned him to the facility.
8. The facility failed to prevent Resident #1 from eloping from the secured unit of the facility.

GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE

The facts stated in the Stipulations of Fact section, *supra*, are sufficient to establish that grounds for the discipline of Respondent's Assisted-Care Living Facility license exist.

 Initial

Specifically, Respondent has violated the following statutes and/or rules, for which disciplinary action by the Board is authorized.

9. The facts stated in paragraphs three (3) through eight (8) are sufficient to establish that Respondent has violated the provisions of Rule 1200-08-25-.07(7)(a)(3)[Services Provided], the relevant portion of which reads as follows:

(7) An ACLF shall provide personal services as follows:

(a) Each ACLF shall provide each resident with at least the following personal services:

(3) Daily awareness of the individual's whereabouts.

ORDER

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

10. The assessment of one (1) civil monetary penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

Payment shall be submitted to the following address within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order:

**Tennessee Department of Health
Division of Health Care Facilities
Attn: Eddie J. Stewart
665 Mainstream Drive, Second Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243**

11. Upon ratification by the Board, the listing of the public discipline, including deficiencies and civil penalties on the Disciplinary Action Report pursuant to T.C.A. § 68-1-114.


 Initial

Upon the agreement of the parties, this **CONSENT ORDER** is approved as a **FINAL ORDER** by a majority of a quorum of the Tennessee Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities at a public meeting of the Board and signed this 5th day of June 2019.


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


Chairperson
Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities

AGREED TO:


Beth Bixter, Administrator
Dominion Senior Living of Hixson
Respondent

Date 5/13/2019


Caroline R. Tippens (B.L.R. #: 030375)
Assistant General Counsel
Department of Health
665 Main Stream Dr., 2nd Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
(615) 741-1611

Date 6/15/2019

 Initial

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A true and exact copy of this Consent Order is being served upon Dominion Senior Living of Hixson, by and through its Administrator, Beth Baxter, 2143 Northpoint Blvd., Chattanooga, TN 37343 and via Dominion Hixson LLC, 3612 Henson Road, Knoxville, TN 37921, by delivering in the United States mail, first class, with sufficient postage thereon to reach its destination and via United States Certified Mail #s 70182229000011403 2037 and 7018 2290 0001 1403 2044

This _____ day of June .2019.

Caroline Tippens
Caroline Tippens
Assistant General Counsel

Initial