



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600**

March 29, 2024

ELECTRONIC-FACSIMILE

Administrator
The Cottages at Mill Creek
13200 10th Drive SE
Mill Creek, WA 98012

Assisted Living Facility License #1977
Licensee: Mill Creek Special Care Community LLC

IMPOSITION OF CIVIL FINE

Dear Administrator:

On March 19, 2024, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Residential Care Services completed a Full and Complaint Investigation at your facility. This letter constitutes formal notice of a civil fine on the license for your assisted living facility, also known as **The Cottages at Mill Creek**, located at **13200 10th Drive SE, Mill Creek**, by the State of Washington, Department of Social and Health Services. These actions are taken under the authority granted pursuant to Laws of 1998, Chapter 272 and RCW 18.20.190.

The civil fine on the license is based on the following violation of the RCW and/or WAC as described in the attached Statement of Deficiencies (SOD) report dated March 19, 2024.

Civil Fine

WAC 388-78A-2610(1)(2)(e) Infection control.

\$500.00

The licensee failed to implement safe infection control practices when four staff had not been fit tested for a N95 respirator, and one medication cart had a sharps container with a lid that did not lock. These failures resulted in residents, staff, and visitors being placed at risk of contracting an infectious disease and a medication cart having an unsecured sharps container placing all residents in one cottage at risk for a needle stick injury from a used needle.

This is a recurring deficiency for WAC 388-78A-2610 subsection (1), previously cited on May 23, 2023, and September 28, 2023.

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NOTE: This is the violation, which resulted in the fine; see the attached Statement of Deficiencies for any additional violations.

Attestation (Plan of Correction):

Return the enclosed SOD within 10 calendar days with the following:

- The date you have or will have each deficiency corrected;
- A signature and date attesting that you are taking actions to correct and maintain correction for each cited deficiency.

Return the signed and dated SOD to:

Kim Ripley, Field Manager
Region 2, Unit A
3906 172nd St NE Suite 100
Arlington, WA 98223
Phone: (206) 794-8568 / Fax: (360) 651-6940
rcsregion2email@dshs.wa.gov

Appeal Rights:

You have two appeal rights: Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) and an Administrative Hearing. Each has a different request timeline.

Informal Dispute Resolution [RCW 18.20.195]

You have an opportunity to challenge the deficiencies and/or enforcement actions through the state's IDR process. **All IDR requests must be in writing and include:**

- The deficiencies you are disputing; and
- The method of review you prefer (face-to-face, telephone conference or documentation review).

The written request must be received by the 10th working day from receipt of this letter.

During the IDR process, you will have the opportunity to present written and/or oral evidence to dispute the deficiencies.

Send your **written** request to:

Informal Dispute Resolution Program Manager
Residential Care Services
PO Box 45600
Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

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Formal Administrative Hearing

You may contest the civil fine by requesting a formal administrative hearing to challenge the deficiency, which resulted in the civil fine. **All hearing requests must be in writing and include:**

- A copy of this letter; and
- A copy of the Statement of Deficiencies.

The written request must be received within twenty-eight (28) calendar days of receipt of this letter.

Send your **written** request to:

Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 42489
Olympia, Washington 98504-2489

Payment:

If you do not request a formal administrative hearing, the civil fine is due to the Office of Financial Recovery twenty-eight (28) calendar days after receipt of this letter.

Mail a check for **\$500.00** payable to the 'Department of Social and Health Services', **and if you have or have had a Medicaid resident(s), please include your ProviderOne ID Number # on the check,** to:

DSHS Office of Financial Recovery
PO Box 9501
Olympia, Washington 98507-9501
1-800-562-6114 (extension 45919)
OFRMMISVendor@dshs.wa.gov

If the Office of Financial Recovery has not received your payment within twenty-eight (28) days after receipt of this letter, interest will begin to accrue immediately on the balance, at the rate of one percent per month. If you do not submit a hearing request or make payment within twenty-eight (28) days, the balance due will be recovered.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kim Ripley, Field Manager, at (206) 794-8568.

Sincerely,



Matt Hauser
Compliance Specialist
Residential Care Services

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Region 2, Unit A
RCS Regional Administrator, Region 2
HCS Regional Administrator, Region 2
DDA Regional Administrator, Region 2
WA LTC Ombuds
Office of Financial Recovery, Vendor Program Unit
HQ Central Files
DRW
HP