

STATE LICENSING COMPLIANCE REPORT

Report #: HL246683091C

Date Concluded: June 12, 2025

Name, Address, and County of Facility

Investigated:

The Willows
2918 7th Ave. North
Anoka, MN 55303
Anoka County

Facility Type: Assisted Living Facility (ALF)

Evaluator's Name: Erin Johnson-Crosby, RN
Special Investigator

The Minnesota Department of Health conducted a complaint investigation to determine compliance with state laws and rules governing the provision of care under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 144G. The purpose of this complaint investigation was to review if facility policies and practices comply with applicable laws and rules. No maltreatment under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 626 was alleged.

To view a copy of the correction orders, if any, please visit:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/directory/provcompselect.html>, or call 651-201-4201 to be provided a copy via mail or email. If you are viewing this report on the MDH website, please see the attached state form.

Minnesota Department of Health

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 24668	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING: _____ B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED C 04/30/2025
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER THE WILLOWS		STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 2918 7TH AVENUE NORTH ANOKA, MN 55303			
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0 000	Initial Comments *****ATTENTION***** ASSISTED LIVING PROVIDER CORRECTION ORDER In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 144G.08 to 144G.95, these correction orders are issued pursuant to a complaint investigation. Determination of whether a violation is corrected requires compliance with all requirements provided at the statute number indicated below. When a Minnesota Statute contains several items, failure to comply with any of the items will be considered lack of compliance. INITIAL COMMENTS: #HL246683091C On April 30, 2025, the Minnesota Department of Health conducted a complaint investigation at the above provider, and the following correction orders are issued. At the time of the complaint investigation, there were six residents receiving services under the provider's Assisted Living license. The following correction orders are issued for #HL246683091C, tag identification 0110 and 0590.	0 000	Minnesota Department of Health is documenting the State Correction Orders using federal software. Tag numbers have been assigned to Minnesota State Statutes for Assisted Living Facilities. The assigned tag number appears in the far-left column entitled "ID Prefix Tag." The state Statute number and the corresponding text of the state Statute out of compliance is listed in the "Summary Statement of Deficiencies" column. This column also includes the findings which are in violation of the state requirement after the statement, "This Minnesota requirement is not met as evidenced by." Following the evaluators ' findings is the Time Period for Correction. PLEASE DISREGARD THE HEADING OF THE FOURTH COLUMN WHICH STATES,"PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION." THIS APPLIES TO FEDERAL DEFICIENCIES ONLY. THIS WILL APPEAR ON EACH PAGE. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT A PLAN OF CORRECTION FOR VIOLATIONS OF MINNESOTA STATE STATUTES. THE LETTER IN THE LEFT COLUMN IS USED FOR TRACKING PURPOSES AND REFLECTS THE SCOPE AND LEVEL		

Minnesota Department of Health

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

(X6) DATE

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0 000	Continued From page 1	0 000	ISSUED PURSUANT TO 144G.31 SUBDIVISION 1-3.		
0 110 SS=F	144G.10 Subdivision 1a Assisted living director license required Each assisted living facility must employ an assisted living director licensed or permitted by the Board of Executives for Long Term Services and Supports. This MN Requirement is not met as evidenced by: Based on interview and record review, the licensee failed to ensure employment of a licensed assisted living director (LALD), licensed by the Board of Executives for Long Term Services and Supports (BELTSS). This had the potential to affect all residents and staff. This practice resulted in a level two violation (a violation that did not harm a resident's health or safety but had the potential to have harmed a resident's health or safety) and was issued at a widespread scope (when problems are pervasive or represent a systemic failure that has affected or has the potential to affect a large portion or all of the residents). The findings include: The licensee held an assisted living facility (ALF) license with a capacity of eight residents issued on March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026. The licensee's Uniform Disclosure of Assisted Living Services and Amenities dated March 17, 2025, indicated the licensee would have an	0 110	Minnesota Department of Health is documenting the State Correction Orders using federal software. Tag numbers have been assigned to Minnesota State Statutes for Assisted Living Facilities. The assigned tag number appears in the far left column entitled "ID Prefix Tag." The state Statute number and the corresponding text of the state Statute out of compliance is listed in the "Summary Statement of Deficiencies" column. This column also includes the findings which are in violation of the state requirement after the statement, "This Minnesota requirement is not met as evidenced by." Following the evaluators' findings is the Time Period for Correction. PLEASE DISREGARD THE HEADING OF THE FOURTH COLUMN WHICH STATES,"PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION." THIS APPLIES TO FEDERAL DEFICIENCIES ONLY. THIS WILL APPEAR ON EACH PAGE.		

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0 110	Continued From page 2 assisted living director onsite part time. On April 30, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., the investigator observed the facility did not have an assisted living director (ALD) or LALD license displayed in the facility. On April 28, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., LALD-D stated she was the LALD for five of the licensee's facilities but had not been the director since April 14, 2025. On April 29, 2025, at 1:15 p.m., licensed practical nurse (LPN)-A and registered nurse (RN)-B stated the licensee did not have a current LALD. On April 30, 2025, at 1:45 p.m., administrative assistant (ADM)-C (former vice president) confirmed the facility did not have a current LALD or an assisted living director-in residence (ALD-IR). The previous LALD left the position on April 14, 2025. ADM-C stated the company had tried to fill the position but that had been difficult. ADM-C had not checked with a consulting company to fill the positions and was hoping to fill the positions internally. On May 9, 2025, at 3:39 p.m., the BELTSS website indicated there was no current director of record listed and the last director of record ended on April 14, 2025. The licensee's Assisted Living Director policy dated June 7, 2023, indicated the licensee was required to have an assisted living director licensed or permitted by the board of directors. The licensed or permitted assisted living director will maintain a current and active license or permit with BELTSS. The assisted living director on record is responsible for the assisted living	0 110	THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT A PLAN OF CORRECTION FOR VIOLATIONS OF MINNESOTA STATE STATUTES. THE LETTER IN THE LEFT COLUMN IS USED FOR TRACKING PURPOSES AND REFLECTS THE SCOPE AND LEVEL ISSUED PURSUANT TO 144G.31 SUBDIVISION 1-3.		

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0 110	Continued From page 3 and all operations within the setting. The license or permit of the assisted living director will be hung in the facility. No further information was provided. TIME PERIOD FOR CORRECTION: Two (2) days	0 110			
0 590 SS=D	144G.42 Subd. 3 Facility restrictions (a) This subdivision does not apply to licensees that are Minnesota counties or other units of government. (b) A facility or staff person may not: (1) accept a power-of-attorney from residents for any purpose, and may not accept appointments as guardians or conservators of residents; or (2) borrow a resident's funds or personal or real property, nor in any way convert a resident's property to the possession of the facility or staff person. (c) A facility may not serve as a resident's legal, designated, or other representative. (d) Nothing in this subdivision precludes a facility or staff person from accepting gifts of minimal value or precludes acceptance of donations or bequests made to a facility that are exempt from section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This MN Requirement is not met as evidenced by: Based on interview and record review the licensee failed to ensure staff did not serve as a resident's legal, designated, or other representative when the licensee allowed a staff member, administrative assistant (ADM)-C (former vice president) to serve as guardian (legal right and duty to care for another and make	0 590			

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0 590	Continued From page 4 decisions related to medical, health and residential) for one of six residents (R1) reviewed. This practice resulted in a level two violation (a violation that did not harm a resident's health or safety but had the potential to have harmed a resident's health or safety, but was not likely to cause serious injury, impairment, or death), and was issued at an isolated scope (when one or a limited number of residents are affected or one or a limited number of staff are involved or the situation has occurred only occasionally). The findings include: R1 admitted to the facility on November 30, 2021, with diagnoses schizophrenia, moderate intellectual disability, and seizures. R1's facility profile sheet indicated ADM-C was listed as R1's guardian. R1's service plan dated May 28, 2024, indicated R1 received services for activities of daily living, medication management, activities, and behavior management. The service plan was signed by ADM-C, as R1's responsible person. On April 29, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., a Net study 2.0 Roster indicated ADM-C background study was affiliated with the licensee in a managerial position. On April 30, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., licensed practical nurse (LPN)-A stated ADM-C had been R1's guardian since he moved in. On April 30, 2025, at 1:10 p.m., registered nurse (RN)-B confirmed that ADM-C was R1's guardian.	0 590			

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0 590	Continued From page 5 On April 30, 2025, at 1:15 p.m., R1 stated he did not know how ADM-C became his guardian and did not want to answer any other questions. On April 30, 2025, at 1:45 p.m., ADM-C stated she was R1's guardian prior to R1 becoming a resident so she was allowed to be R1's guardian. ADM-C stated she had not reviewed the new assisted living statutes regarding guardianship. ADM-C stated the only way this could be fixed would be for her to stop working for the licensee. The licensee's Facility Restrictions policy, dated June 6, 2022, indicated neither WPAL [Whispering Pines Assisted Living] or any of its staff may accept a power-of-attorney from residents for any purpose, accept appointments as guardians or conservators of residents, borrow funds from a resident, or borrow personal or real property from a resident. The licensee's updated policy, dated April 15, 2025, neither WPAL [Whispering Pines Assisted Living] or any of its employees may accept a new appointment as a power-of-attorney from current residents of WPAL for any purpose, sign a new acceptance of appointment as guardian or conservators of a current resident of WPAL, borrow funds from a resident, or borrow personal or real property from a resident. WPAL may not serve as the resident's legal, designated or other representative. No further information provided. TIME PERIOD FOR CORRECTION: Seven (7)	0 590			