

STATE OF FLORIDA  
AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

FILED  
AHCA  
AGENCY CLERK

2022 AUG -1 P 12: 57

COMPANION HOME CORP.,

Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF FLORIDA, AGENCY FOR  
HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION,

Respondent.

DOAH No. 22-177

AHCA No. 2021007947

License No. 7893

File No. 11942921

Provider Type: Assisted Living Facility

**RENDITION NO.: AHCA- 22 - 551 -S-OLC**

STATE OF FLORIDA, AGENCY FOR  
HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION,

Petitioner,

v.

COMPANION HOME CORP.,

Respondent.

DOAH No. 22-176

AHCA Nos. 2021007970

2021007385

**FINAL ORDER**

Having reviewed the Emergency Suspension Order, Administrative Complaint, Notice of Intent to Deny Renewal Application, and all other matters of record, the Agency for Health Care Administration finds and concludes as follows:

1. After issuance of an Emergency Suspension Order, the Agency timely issued the attached Administrative Complaint, Notice of Intent to Deny Renewal Application and Election of Rights forms to the Companion Home Corp. (Comp. Ex. 1). The parties have since entered into the attached Settlement Agreement, which is adopted and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. (Ex. 2)
2. The assisted living facility license of Companion Home Corp. is SURRENDERED.
3. In accordance with Florida law, the Provider is responsible for retaining and appropriately distributing all client records within the timeframes prescribed in the authorizing statutes and applicable administrative code provisions. The Provider is advised of Section 408.810, Florida Statutes.
4. In accordance with Florida law, the Provider is responsible for any refunds that may have to be made to the clients.

5. The Provider is given notice of Florida law regarding unlicensed activity. The Provider is advised of Section 408.804 and Section 408.812, Florida Statutes. The Provider should also consult the applicable authorizing statutes and administrative code provisions. The Provider is notified that the cancellation of an Agency license may have ramifications potentially affecting accrediting, third party billing including but not limited to the Florida Medicaid program, and private contracts.

6. Fines in the total sum of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars (\$17,500.00) are assessed and placed in abeyance, payable only as described in the Settlement Agreement.

**ORDERED** at Tallahassee, Florida, on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.



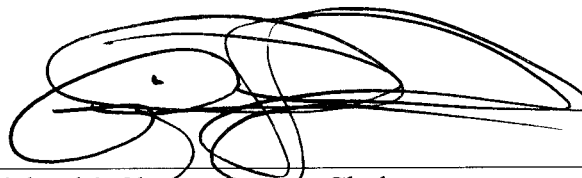
Kimberly R. Smoak, Deputy Secretary  
Agency for Health Care Administration

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW**

A party who is adversely affected by this Final Order is entitled to judicial review, which shall be instituted by filing one copy of a notice of appeal with the Agency Clerk of AHCA, and a second copy, along with filing fee as prescribed by law, with the District Court of Appeal in the appellate district where the Agency maintains its headquarters or where a party resides. Review of proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the Florida appellate rules. The Notice of Appeal must be filed within 30 days of rendition of the order to be reviewed.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

**I CERTIFY** that a true and correct copy of this Final Order was served on the below-named persons by the method designated on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.



Richard J. Shoop, Agency Clerk  
Agency for Health Care Administration  
2727 Mahan Drive, Mail Stop 3  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308  
Telephone: (850) 412-3630

Facilities Intake Unit Agency for Health Care Administration (Electronic Mail)	Keisha Woods, Unit Manager Licensure Unit Agency for Health Care Administration (Electronic Mail)
Central Intake Unit Agency for Health Care Administration (Electronic Mail)	Arlene Mayo Davis, Field Office Manager Local Field Office Agency for Health Care Administration (Electronic Mail)
Katrina Derico-Harris Medicaid Accounts Receivable Agency for Health Care Administration (Electronic Mail)	Thomas J. Walsh II, Senior Attorney Office of the General Counsel Agency for Health Care Administration (Electronic Mail)
Medicaid Contract Management Agency for Health Care Administration (Electronic Mail)	Thomas M. Hoeler, Chief Facilities Counsel Office of the General Counsel Agency for Health Care Administration (Electronic Mail)
Teresita A. Vivó, Esquire Presiding Officer Agency for Health Care Administration (Electronic Mail)	Miriam Companioni, Individually and on behalf of Companion Home Corp. 1997 Southwest 17 <sup>th</sup> Court Miami, Florida 33145 (U.S. Mail)

## **NOTICE OF FLORIDA LAW**

### **408.804 License required; display.--**

(1) It is unlawful to provide services that require licensure, or operate or maintain a provider that offers or provides services that require licensure, without first obtaining from the agency a license authorizing the provision of such services or the operation or maintenance of such provider.

(2) A license must be displayed in a conspicuous place readily visible to clients who enter at the address that appears on the license and is valid only in the hands of the licensee to whom it is issued and may not be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred, voluntarily or involuntarily. The license is valid only for the licensee, provider, and location for which the license is issued.

### **408.812 Unlicensed activity. --**

(1) A person or entity may not offer or advertise services that require licensure as defined by this part, authorizing statutes, or applicable rules to the public without obtaining a valid license from the agency. A licenseholder may not advertise or hold out to the public that he or she holds a license for other than that for which he or she actually holds the license.

(2) The operation or maintenance of an unlicensed provider or the performance of any services that require licensure without proper licensure is a violation of this part and authorizing statutes. Unlicensed activity constitutes harm that materially affects the health, safety, and welfare of clients. The agency or any state attorney may, in addition to other remedies provided in this part, bring an action for an injunction to restrain such violation, or to enjoin the future operation or maintenance of the unlicensed provider or the performance of any services in violation of this part and authorizing statutes, until compliance with this part, authorizing statutes, and agency rules has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the agency.

(3) It is unlawful for any person or entity to own, operate, or maintain an unlicensed provider. If after receiving notification from the agency, such person or entity fails to cease operation and apply for a license under this part and authorizing statutes, the person or entity shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by authorizing statutes and applicable rules. Each day of continued operation is a separate offense.

(4) Any person or entity that fails to cease operation after agency notification may be fined \$1,000 for each day of noncompliance.

(5) When a controlling interest or licensee has an interest in more than one provider and fails to license a provider rendering services that require licensure, the agency may revoke all licenses and impose actions under s. 408.814 and a fine of \$1,000 per day, unless otherwise specified by authorizing statutes, against each licensee until such time as the appropriate license is obtained for the unlicensed operation.

(6) In addition to granting injunctive relief pursuant to subsection (2), if the agency determines that a person or entity is operating or maintaining a provider without obtaining a license and determines that a condition exists that poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of a client of the provider, the person or entity is subject to the same actions and fines imposed against a licensee as specified in this part, authorizing statutes, and agency rules.

(7) Any person aware of the operation of an unlicensed provider must report that provider to the agency.