

Tony Evers
Governor



Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary

State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

DIVISION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

BUREAU OF ASSISTED LIVING
MADISON/SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
201 East Washington Ave
Room E300
Madison, WI 53703

Telephone: 608-264-9888
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TTY: 711 or 800-947-3529

July 1, 2026

ELECTRONIC MAIL
SOD #IXKP12

NOTICE and ORDER

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

ORDER TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS

ORDER NOT TO ADMIT NEW OR ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS - EXTENDED

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ORDERS

NOTICE OF IMPOSED FORFEITURE

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

NOTICE OF REVISIT FEE

Fred Melius
PO Box 129
Green Lake, WI 54941

C/O Licensee: Partners in Community Eldercare LLC

Re: Kindredhearts of Cottage Grove (0011776)
505 Westlawn Dr
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Dear Fred Melius:

This letter is a statutory NOTICE of VIOLATION and imposed ORDER on the licensee of Kindredhearts of Cottage Grove, located at 505 Westlawn Dr, Cottage Grove, WI 53527, and sets forth appeal rights, if any. This regulatory action is taken by the Department of Health Services (Department) pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g), and Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 83.

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

On June 8, 2026, a complaint investigation and verification visite were concluded for Kindredhearts of Cottage Grove by the Division of Quality Assurance, Bureau of Assisted Living, to determine if the above-referenced facility was in substantial compliance with Wis. Stat. ch. 50 or Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 83, or both, which set forth requirements for the administration and operation of a community-based residential facility (CBRF). The Department

is issuing Statement of Deficiency (SOD) #IXKP12 for violations of Wis. Stat. ch. 50 or Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 83, which establish the grounds for this action. SOD #IXKP12 is enclosed.

ORDER TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS

1. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(b)3., effective immediately, the licensee shall comply with the requirements specified by Wis. Stat. ch. 50 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 83 that establish the standards for the operation of the Community Based Residential Facility in order to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents.

AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AND WITHOUT DELAY, within 45 days of receipt of this notice, the licensee shall achieve and maintain substantial compliance with all requirements. All operational and resident records required as evidence of compliance with applicable rules will be available to department representatives upon request.

The Department may, without notice, conduct an inspection to verify the licensee's corrective action at any time after the date of compliance. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(cm), the department may impose a \$200 inspection fee for an on-site inspection to review compliance of violations resulting in enforcement action.

ADDITIONALLY:

WITHIN 10 DAYS of receipt of this notice, the licensee may request an extension for the date of compliance. The request for an extension must be submitted to the Assisted Living Regional Director, Southern Regional Office, at DHSDQABALSRO@dhs.wisconsin.gov. The Regional Director will communicate to the licensee a decision on the date of compliance extension.

ORDER NOT TO ADMIT NEW OR ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS – EXTENDED

Based on the results of the Department's investigation, and pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(b)7., EFFECTIVE UPON RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE and ORDER, the Department of Health Services hereby extends the order issued on March 25, 2026, with Statement of Deficiency IXKP11 that Kindredhearts of Cottage Grove Not Admit any New or Additional Residents until all violations in Statement of Deficiency IXKP12 are corrected, compliance is verified by the Department, and this Order is rescinded in writing.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Based on the results of the Department's investigation, and pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(b), **EFFECTIVE UPON RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE and ORDER**, the Department of Health Services **HEREBY ORDERS** that **Kindredhearts of Cottage Grove:**

CONSULTANT REQUIRED

1. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(b)6., EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, the licensee shall ensure all residents receive proper care and treatment, that their health and safety are protected and promoted and that their rights are respected.

WITHIN 7 DAYS of receipt of this notice, the licensee shall provide the legal representative and case manager (if any) for each current resident with a copy of Statement of Deficiency (SOD) IXKP12 and a copy of this Notice and Order letter. The licensee shall retain evidence, acceptable to the department, to verify compliance with this Order. Acceptable documentation will be a signed, certified mail receipt or a verification letter or email from each legal representative and case manager.

WITHIN 45 DAYS of receipt of this notice, the licensee shall develop and implement corrective measures to address each deficiency issued in SOD IXKP12 in consultation with a registered nurse (RN), not currently affiliated with the licensee, at the licensee's expense. The RN will have knowledge of assisted living regulations (e.g., Wis. Admin. Code ch. 83, Wis. Stat. ch. 50) and knowledge of the client groups served by Kindredhearts of Cottage Grove. The licensee will provide the consultant with a copy of SOD IXKP12, along with this Notice and Order letter prior to providing consultation services. Consultation will include the development (or revision) of written procedures to address:

Admission Procedures

Including how the licensee will ensure all employees responsible for the admission of a new resident will be informed of and comply with a department order prohibiting any new admissions.

Medication Management and Administration

Including how the licensee will: a) document medication orders, medication administration, and missed/refused doses; b) administer medications to ensure residents receive medications at the intervals and dosages prescribed; c) ensure all prescribed medications are refilled in a timely manner; d) prevent medication errors; e) respond to medication errors if they occur; f) monitor for adverse side effects; g) ensure medications are securely stored; h) discontinue and dispose of medications; and (i) document and maintain proof of use record for schedule II drugs.

Food Safety

Including how the licensee will ensure: a) safe food handling, including proper food storage, cleaning, and sanitizing the kitchen and appliances; and b) menu planning, food purchases and inventory ensure nutritious meals are available, and resident food preferences are respected.

Additionally:

All managers, and resident care staff (as appropriate) will receive training on the procedures required by Order #1. Training will be documented in personnel records and

will include the date/duration of training, the signature/qualifications of the instructor, and an outline of course content.

Consultation activities, including dates of consultation, will be documented, signed, and dated by the consultant.

All documentation to evidence compliance with Order #1 will be made available to department representatives upon request.

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE*

In addition to other sanctions enumerated in Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(b)1. to 8., according Stat. § 50.03(5g)(c)1.b., the Department of Health Services may impose a forfeiture on a licensee or any other person who violates the applicable statutory provisions or administrative rules governing CBRFs. If imposed, the forfeiture amount may not be less than \$10 or more than \$1,000 per day for each violation.

The Department has determined that you violated state statutes or administrative code provisions, or both, as identified in the enclosed SOD #IXKP12. Therefore, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(c), **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that a total **FORFEITURE OF \$4860.00 IS IMPOSED** for the following violations described in SOD #IXKP12. Some of the forfeitures may accrue daily until compliance is achieved and verified for that cited violation.

TAG	DHS CODE	AMOUNT(\$)
N196	83.14(2)(a)	2500.00
N409	83.37(1)(j)	200.00
N427	83.38(1)(c)	300.00
N432	83.38(1)(h)	1260.00
N452	83.41(3)(b)	600.00

Total Forfeiture Due: \$4860.00

You must pay the Total Forfeiture amount within ten (10) days of receipt of this NOTICE and ORDER.

REDUCED FORFEITURE OPTION

If you choose not to appeal the forfeiture, any of the violations in SOD #IXKP12, **AND** any Orders contained in this NOTICE and ORDER, then the Department will reduce the total forfeiture due by 35%.

* According to Art. X, §2 of the Wisconsin Constitution and Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(c)1.c., all forfeitures collected by the Department are deposited in the State's School Fund.

This 35% reduced forfeiture option also applies to any accruing forfeiture. Final calculation of any accruing forfeiture due will be based on a verified date of compliance.

At this time, the reduced forfeiture amount due to the Department within ten (10) days of receipt of this NOTICE and ORDER is \$3159.00.

Please make the forfeiture payment payable to “DHS 639” and send it to:

ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST
DHS / DQA / BAL
201 East Washington Ave
Room E300
Madison, WI 53703

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

According to Wis. Stat. §§ 50.03(5g)(b) and (f), you may request an administrative hearing of the Department’s action. To notify the Department of your request for a hearing, your written request **must be filed with (served upon) the Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA) within ten (10) days after receipt of this NOTICE**. Please note that according to Wis. Admin. Code § HA 1.03(3)(a), materials **mailed** to DHA are **considered filed on the date of the postmark**. Send your request for a hearing to:

CBRF APPEAL
DHA
P.O. BOX 7875
MADISON, WI 53707-7875

Include in your written request for a hearing **ALL** of the following:

- ✓ The name and address of the facility;
- ✓ What you are appealing (attach a copy of this NOTICE to your appeal);
- ✓ The effective date of the action;
- ✓ A concise statement of the reasons for objecting to the action;
- ✓ What type of relief you are seeking; and
- ✓ The name, address and telephone number of any person who may be expected to appear on behalf of the facility

YOUR APPEAL MAY BE DENIED OR DISMISSED IF THE REQUEST IS INCOMPLETE OR NOT FILED WITH DHA WITHIN THE 10-DAY APPEAL TIME.

Please note that according to Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(c)1.c., if you file an appeal, then payment of any forfeiture is due within 10 days after you receive the final decision in the case after exhaustion of administrative review.

NOTICE OF REVISIT FEE

According to Wis. Stat. § 50.03(5g)(cm), if the Department imposes a sanction on, or takes other enforcement action against a community-based residential facility for violation of this subchapter or rules promulgated under it, and the Department subsequently conducts an onsite inspection to review the facility's action to correct the violation(s), the Department may impose a \$200 inspection fee on the community-based residential facility.

On June 8, 2026, a verification visit was concluded at Kindredhearts of Cottage Grove by the Division of Quality Assurance, Bureau of Assisted Living, to determine if the violation(s) contained in Statement of Deficiency (SOD) IXKP11 were corrected. **Therefore, an inspection fee of \$200 is being assessed.**

Please send a check or money order in the amount of \$200 made payable to "Division of Quality Assurance" and send it to:

Division of Quality Assurance
Bureau of Assisted Living
Southern Regional Office
201 East Washington Ave
Room E300
Madison, WI 53703

The revisit fee is due within ten (10) days of receipt of this Notice. Failure to submit this revisit fee will result in additional department action against Kindredhearts of Cottage Grove. There are no appeal rights for revisit fees.

POSTING OF NOTICES

According to Wis. Admin. Code DHS §§ 83.13(3)(a) and 83.14(2)(h), each facility shall immediately upon receipt post next to its CBRF license, and in a public area that is visually and physically available, any citation/statement of deficiency, notice of revocation, notice of non-renewal, and any other notice of enforcement action. Citations and statements of deficiency shall remain posted for ninety (90) days following receipt. Notices of revocation, non-renewal, and other notices of enforcement action shall remain posted until a final determination is made.

Therefore, the license shall immediately post this Notice and Order letter and it shall remain posted until a final determination is made.

* * *

If you have questions about this letter, please contact Hillary Holman, Assisted Living Regional Director, at (608) 266-8339.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Brotheridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Kenneth Brotheridge, Assisted Living Director
Bureau of Assisted Living
Division of Quality Assurance

Enclosure
KB/MSE

cc: Ombudsman, Dane County
Aging/Disability Resource Center, Dane County
Dane County Human Services
Waiver Agencies
Division of Medicaid Services
Disability Rights Wisconsin