



Behavioral Health Services + Education and Community Services + Youth and Family Services

Allegheny County Health Department  
Office of the Director  
542 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

RE: SR#: HCE-20220106-1117

To whom it concerns,

In reply to our letter dated November 9, 2022, concerning the "1 Class 3 Violation(s)" at the Facility located at 6721 Sylvan Dr., Familylinks intends to correspond to the Allegheny County Health Department, that our Agency does understand our rights and availability to file an Appeal, in writing, to your office for the aforementioned Violation. The Violation that requires corrective action is stated as such: "*Habitable Room Lacks Ventilation.*" The provided remedy is as such: "*Provide openable window area to at least 4% of room floor area or mechanical ventilation ducted directly to the outdoors. Provide at least two air changes per hour in habitable rooms and three air changes per hour in the kitchen.*"

Familylinks does intend to appeal this Violation. As required, this letter shall describe in particularity all issues to be raised.

To start, if required to provide "at least 4% of room floor area" to the operable space of the habitable rooms' windows, this would require the windows to be opened far beyond the measurements that would compromise the security of the individuals that we serve. We must avoid the possibility of our Clients either absconding from our Facilities, or injuring themselves. With our utmost concern towards the safety and well-being of our Clientele, we certainly cannot allow the openings of these windows, at this height. In addition to our concerns on these opening heights, our philosophy and vision is to also avoid institutional instruments such as bars or cages over the windows. Our vision is to provide a warm, welcome Home.

Secondly, if the operable size of the windows shall not be relied on, and Familylinks is required to the outfit Mechanical Ventilation to the Facility, this certainly would necessitate mechanical renovations and implementation, both of which are costly endeavors which could greatly impact our financial position. This also, would impact our Program operations during the time needed for construction or installation. Historically the nature of mechanical ventilation requirements have not been an issues at this Facility, which has been in compliant operation for several years.

Familylinks submits this letter for considerations, to alleviate the circumstances surrounding the mentioned Violation, and to Appeal this Violation appropriately. We ask that our historical operational timeline at this Facility be brought into consideration, as we remind those who are concerned that this matter has not been an issue in years past.



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Lastly Familylinks can state that, in working with our Partners and Vendors, we will bring into consideration our engineering options concerning what is being suggested for the Facility, but will continue to maintain the position of our Appeal, due to our Operational and Financial impact potential on the matter.

Respectfully,

Chris Rollings  
Director of Facilities Operations  
Familylinks