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**Page 1 of 2**

## **NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY and COMPLIANCE SEEKS ACTION ON HENDERSON UNLICENSED FACILITY**

*Las Vegas* – The Nevada State Health Division’s Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance has issued a notice to a residential care facility in Henderson that they are operating without the proper licenses as required by state law. The Henderson Business Licensing Department also issued a citation to the facility regarding operating without a business license.

As part of the Bureau’s new rapid response approach to complaints, a joint investigation of several alleged unlicensed facilities was conducted on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, and included investigators from the Henderson Business Licensing Department, Nevada’s Aging and Disability Services Division, the Henderson Police Department, and the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance.

Staff observed three seniors residing at 602 St. Andrews Drive in Henderson, and all of them were being assisted with, bathing, feeding, taking medications, laundry and other activities of daily living. This group home was previously found operating without a Health Division license in January 2011, and was issued a preliminary injunction by a Clark County Court at the request of the Nevada Attorney General’s office. Based on the recent joint investigation, the operator of 602 St. Andrews Drive is being referred to the Nevada Attorney General’s Office for further prosecution as an unlicensed facility.

Pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 534 Section 1, effective July 1, 2011, those operating an unlicensed residential facility for groups are potentially liable for a civil penalty of \$10,000 for a first offense. Violators are also prohibited from applying for licensure for six months for a first offense. Residents are required to be transferred within ten days of notification.

Discharge planners with hospitals and other medical facilities should ensure their patients are released to facilities that are properly licensed by the Bureau.

The Bureau issues press releases about the facilities it regulates in limited circumstances: where major public health concerns are identified in licensed facilities; in significant cases of repeat violations in licensed facilities; in cases of the suspension or revocation of a license; in cases

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where patient harm has occurred; and in cases where unlicensed facilities are operating.

The Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance protects the safety and welfare of the public through the promotion and advocacy of quality health care through licensing, regulation, enforcement and education. This mission is accomplished through the Bureau's two sections: Licensure and Certification, which regulates facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, hospitals, outpatient surgery centers and laboratories; and Radiological Health, which evaluates and responds to hazards from sources of ionizing radiation such as X-ray machines, sources of radiation to treat cancer and mammography units.

For health facilities, more than 900 surveys are conducted each year of Nevada's licensees.

For more information about the Nevada State Health Division, go to: <http://health.nv.gov>.

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