

# State Rapid Response Investigative Public Report

*Office of Health Facility Complaints*

**Maltreatment Report #:** HL215183703M  
**Compliance #:** HL215186083C

**Date Concluded:** April 11, 2023

**Name, Address, and County of Licensee**

**Investigated:**

Harmony Place  
455 Main Avenue N  
Harmony, MN 55939  
Fillmore County

**Facility Type:** Assisted Living Facility with  
Dementia Care (ALFDC)

**Evaluator's Name:** Lena Gangestad, RN  
Special Investigator

**Finding:** Substantiated, facility responsibility

**Nature of Visit:**

The Minnesota Department of Health investigated an allegation of maltreatment, in accordance with the Minnesota Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults Act, Minn. Stat. 626.557, and to evaluate compliance with applicable licensing standards for the provider type.

**Initial Investigation Allegation(s):**

The facility neglected the resident when the facility did not provide adequate incontinence care leading to skin irritation, skin breakdown, and pain.

**Investigative Findings and Conclusion:**

The Minnesota Department of Health determined neglect was substantiated. The facility was responsible for the maltreatment. The facility neglected the resident when the facility did not provide skin care such as bathing. The facility also neglected the resident when it failed to follow-up on reports of a rash, which was not addressed until the resident was hospitalized.

The investigator conducted interviews with facility staff members, including administrative staff, nursing staff, and unlicensed staff. The investigator contacted the resident's family member. The investigation included a review of the resident's records, the facility's policies and procedures, and the resident's external hospital record. The investigation included an onsite visit, observations, and interactions between residents and facility staff.

The resident's diagnosis included hypertension. The resident's service plan included required the assistance of one person with bathing once a week, housekeeping, and medication management. The service plan also indicated staff needed to check skin with a bath/shower and report any reddened or open area to the nurse.

The resident's medical record indicated she lived at the facility for approximately six months. The resident's diagnosis included hypertension. The resident's service plan included required the assistance of one person with bathing once a week, housekeeping, and medication management. The service plan also indicated the resident required skin checks with baths or showers and facility staff members needed to report any reddened or open area to the nurse.

The resident's spouse also lived at the facility. His diagnoses included mild cognitive impairment. He had multiple nurse assessments which indicated he was not capable of independent decision making. His service plan indicated he needed occasional re-orientation due to "moderate confusion".

During the resident's sixth month at the facility, the resident developed slurred speech and was sent to the emergency room (ER) for evaluation. The resident's hospital records indicated the resident arrive to the ER cover in dried feces. She had severe erythematous rash across the entire abdominal folds from her thighs down to her knees into her buttock area. Her hospital records also indicated she admitted with probable cellulitis (an infection of the skin). The resident admitted to and remained in the hospital approximately for a week and then discharged to a nursing home. The resident did not return to the facility.

An assessment dated a few days after the resident left for the hospital completed by the registered nurse indicated the resident had no "skin alteration" in the prior 90 days. The same assessment indicated the resident's lung were clear although the resident was no longer at the facility.

A review of the resident's records during her six months at the facility indicated she did not have any showers for the six months. A review of her progress notes and care plan did not identify any documentation addressing the resident's refusal of shower, baths, or cares.

During an interview, the unlicensed personnel (ULP) #1 stated she did not know how often resident had a shower. She knew resident had a redness under her abdomen and was treated with nystatin before. She did not know anything about the recent rash, but ULP #1 confirmed resident did not have the rash when she was admitted to the facility.

During an interview, the ULP #2 said she was the "bath aid" and was supposed to give the resident a whirlpool bath once a week. She said the resident refused to take a bath every time she asked. ULP#2 stated she notified the nurse about resident's refusal and charted it in

resident's flow sheets. ULP #2 also stated she did not reapproach or reoffer the bath to the resident after she refused because there were so many baths to get done each day.

During an interview, ULP #3 stated she worked mostly night and did not provide any peri care for resident. ULP #3 stated she knew the "bath aid" notified the administrator and the nurse about resident's skin fold redness a few times, but she was not aware of any action taken.

During an interview, the assisted living director in residence (ALDIR) stated staff members did notify her about the resident's refusal of bathing. The ALDIR told the staff members to document the refusal and re-approached the resident to offer the bath again. She stated she did not know about the resident's redness in her abdomen.

During an interview, the registered nurse stated she worked as a regional nurse with responsibilities at six different facilities and started with the company about a month before the resident's hospitalization. Due to covering multiple sites, she stated she was typically onsite at the facility one or two days a week but is typically supported by a licensed practical nurse. She stated she was notified resident's redness a few days before resident was sent to the hospital but did not have a chance to assess the resident in-person because she covered multiple locations. The registered nurse stated she had been informed of the resident's refusals to bathe she spoke with the resident's husband, and he said he did not want to take further actions on this. When asked how she completed the resident's assessment while the resident was in the hospital, she acknowledged she did not see the resident during that time. The registered nurse stated this was a mistake and the assessment was done in error.

During an interview, the resident's family member #1 stated resident needed assistance with taking a bath, and the staff was supposed to bathe her at least once a week. Family member #1 confirmed the resident's room smelled badly of urine. The staff was supposed to do the laundry and what she found in resident's laundry was "disgusting".

During an interview, the resident's family member #2 stated the resident supposed to have a whirlpool bath once a week and she believed the staff did not do it. She stated she went to wash the resident's clothes and found maggots in the hamper. Family member #2 stated the resident's spouse had memory impairment and did not understand the cares his wife needed.

In conclusion, the Minnesota Department of Health determined neglect was substantiated.

**Substantiated: Minnesota Statutes, section 626.5572, Subdivision 19.**

"Substantiated" means a preponderance of evidence shows that an act that meets the definition of maltreatment occurred.

**Neglect: Minnesota Statutes, section 626.5572, subdivision 17**

Neglect means neglect by a caregiver or self-neglect.



(a) "Caregiver neglect" means the failure or omission by a caregiver to supply a vulnerable adult with care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision which is:

(1) reasonable and necessary to obtain or maintain the vulnerable adult's physical or mental health or safety, considering the physical and mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult; and

(2) which is not the result of an accident or therapeutic conduct

**Vulnerable Adult interviewed:** No. The resident was deceased.

**Family/Responsible Party interviewed:** Yes

**Alleged Perpetrator interviewed:** Not applicable.

**Action taken by facility:**

No action taken.

**Action taken by the Minnesota Department of Health:**

The facility was found to be in noncompliance. To view a copy of the Statement of Deficiencies and/or correction orders, please visit:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/directory/provcompselect.html>

If you are viewing this report on the MDH website, please see the attached Statement of Deficiencies.

You may also call 651-201-4890 to receive a copy via mail or email

The responsible party will be notified of their right to appeal the maltreatment finding. If the maltreatment is substantiated against an identified employee, this report will be submitted to the nurse aide registry for possible inclusion of the finding on the abuse registry and/or to the Minnesota Department of Human Services for possible disqualification in accordance with the provisions of the background study requirements under Minnesota 245C.

cc:

The Office of Ombudsman for Long Term Care

The Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Fillmore County Attorney

Harmony City Attorney

Minnesota Board of Nursing

Minnesota Department of Health

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:  21518	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING: _____  B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED  C 02/06/2023
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER  HARMONY PLACE			STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 455 MAIN AVENUE NORTH HARMONY, MN 55939		
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0 000	<p>Initial Comments</p> <p>*****ATTENTION*****</p> <p>ASSISTED LIVING PROVIDER LICENSING CORRECTION ORDER</p> <p>In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 144G.10 to 144G.93, the Minnesota Department of Health issued correction orders pursuant to an investigation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>INITIAL COMMENTS:</p> <p>HL215183703M / HL215186083C HL215183604M / HL215185965C HL215183163M / HL215185186C</p> <p>On February 6, 2023, the Minnesota Department of Health initiated an investigation of complaint #HL215183703M/HL215186083C, HL215183604M/HL215185965C, and HL215183163M/HL215185186C. At the time of the investigation, there were 30 residents receiving services under the Assisted Living license.</p> <p>During the course of the investigation, an immediate order for correction was issued for HL215183703M/HL215186083C, HL215183604M/HL215185965C, and HL215183163M/HL215185186C at tag identification at 0110 on February 28.</p>	0 000	<p>Minnesota Department of Health is documenting the State Licensing Correction Orders using federal software. Tag numbers have been assigned to Minnesota State Statutes for Assisted Living License Providers. 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 surveyors' findings is the Time Period for Correction.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT A PLAN OF CORRECTION FOR VIOLATIONS OF MINNESOTA STATE STATUTES.</p> <p>The letter in the left column is used for tracking purposes and reflects the scope and level issued pursuant to 144G.31 subd. 1, 2, and 3.</p>		

Minnesota Department of Health

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

TITLE

(X6) DATE



Minnesota Department of Health

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0 000	Continued From page 1  The following correction order is issued for HL215183163M / HL215185186C tag identification at 0740.  The following correction order is issued for HL215183703M / HL215186083C tag identification at 2310 and 2360.	0 000			
0 110 SS=F	<b>144G.10 Subdivision 1a Assisted living director license required</b>  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 a Assisted Living Director-in-Residence (ALDIR) was listed as the Director of Record with the Board of Executives for Long Term Services and Supports (BELTSS). This had the potential to affect all the licensee's residents, staff and visitors.  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 the residents).  The findings include:  ALDIR had a license effective through August 15, 2022. However, ALDIR's license lacked an	0 110			

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0 110	<p>Continued From page 2</p> <p>organization listed as the Director of Record with BELTSS.</p> <p>On February 23, 2023, at 1:04 p.m. ALDIR stated before she came in, another employee was in the process of getting her LALD license but then her position changed. ALDIR confirmed she was now the LALD for this licensee. ALDIR was asked via phone to provide information, such as an email from BELTSS, to confirm who was the LALD for this facility. No confirmation was provided.</p> <p>The licensee's undated document titled, "Position Description - Director" indicated the facility director was responsible for day-to-day overall agency operations and assured adequate resources and efficient and effective use in meeting the agency goals and objectives. The position description further indicated the director was required to be a Licensed Assisted Living Director with Minnesota BELTSS, and had an in-depth working knowledge of the home health care industry, clinical practices and applicable federal, state and local health care regulations.</p> <p>Time Period to correct: Two (2) days.</p>	0 110			
0 740 SS=D	<p><b>144G.43 Subd. 4 Transfer of resident records</b></p> <p>With the resident's knowledge and consent, if a resident is relocated to another facility or to a nursing home, or if care is transferred to another service provider, the facility must timely convey to the new facility, nursing home, or provider:</p> <p>(1) the resident's full name, date of birth, and insurance information;</p> <p>(2) the name, telephone number, and address of the resident's designated representatives and legal representatives, if any;</p>	0 740			



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0 740	<p>Continued From page 3</p> <p>(3) the resident's current documented diagnoses that are relevant to the services being provided;</p> <p>(4) the resident's known allergies that are relevant to the services being provided;</p> <p>(5) the name and telephone number of the resident's physician, if known, and the current physician orders that are relevant to the services being provided;</p> <p>(6) all medication administration records that are relevant to the services being provided;</p> <p>(7) the most recent resident assessment, if relevant to the services being provided; and</p> <p>(8) copies of health care directives, "do not resuscitate" orders, and any guardianship orders or powers of attorney.</p> <p>This MN Requirement is not met as evidenced by: Based on the interview and record review, the licensee failed to send all necessary medical information to an admitting licensee upon discharge from the licensee for one of one (R1) resident records reviewed.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The findings include:</p> <p>R1's diagnoses included Parkinson's disease, dementia, and major depressive disorder. R1's signed service agreement dated August 20, 2021, indicated R1 received services including</p>	0 740			



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0 740	<p>Continued From page 4</p> <p>medication administration, dressing, housekeeping, and toileting.</p> <p>During an interview on February 16, 2023, at 10:01 a.m., a registered nurse (RN) of the admitting licensee stated she tried to contact the licensee for a report, but she did not get any answer from them. She then contacted the resident's doctor for his medical records.</p> <p>During an interview on February 21, 2023, at 2:47 p.m., unlicensed personnel (ULP) stated she gathered all the resident's medications, put them in the bag, and gave them to the family for the resident's discharge. She said the family came the night before to notify staff they would move him the next day.</p> <p>During an interview on February 23, 2023, at 1:04 p.m., Licensed Assisted Living Director (LALD) stated the resident was discharged to another facility per the family's request. She confirmed they did not send any discharge paper nor the resident's medical record to the admitting licensee.</p> <p>The licensee's form titled Resident Discharged Summary Form indicated the licensee would provide a summary of the resident's stay, a final summary of the resident's status from the latest assessment or review, provide a reconciliation of all pre-discharged medications with all the resident's post discharged prescribed and provide a post discharged care plan at the request of the resident or resident's representative, take steps to ensure a coordinated discharge.</p> <p>TIME PERIOD FOR CORRECTION: Seven (7) days</p>	0 740			

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02310	Continued From page 5	02310			
02310 SS=G	<p><b>144G.91 Subd. 4 (a) Appropriate care and services</b></p> <p>(a) Residents have the right to care and assisted living services that are appropriate based on the resident's needs and according to an up-to-date service plan subject to accepted health care standards.</p> <p>This MN Requirement is not met as evidenced by: Based on interview and record review, the licensee failed to ensure appropriate care and services were provided to 1 of 3 resident, R3, reviewed for staff services provided. The licensee failed to assess R3's skin and failed to provide oversight to determine the individualized plan of care and ensured staff provided appropriate care and services.</p> <p>This practice resulted in a level three violation (a violation that harmed a resident's health or safety, not including serious injury, impairment, or death, or a violation that has the potential to lead to 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).</p> <p>Findings include:</p> <p>R3's diagnoses included hypertension.</p> <p>R3 admitted to the licensee on June 6, 2022.</p> <p>R3's service plan, undated and unsigned, indicated R3 required the assistance of one person with bathing once a week, housekeeping,</p>	02310			



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02310	<p>Continued From page 6</p> <p>and medication management. The service plan also indicated staff needed to check skin with a bath/shower and report any reddened/open area to the nurse.</p> <p>R3's flowsheet report indicated R3 did not have any showers from June to November 2022.</p> <p>A review of R3's progress notes from June to November 2022 did not identify documentation regarding R3's refusal of bathing or cares.</p> <p>R3's progress notes dated August 11, 2022, indicated staff member(s) informed RN-I of R3's abdominal folds and groin which had a very red and yeasty-smelling rash.</p> <p>Review of R3's 90 day nursing assessment dated August 15, 2022, was completed by RN-I, indicated skin was intact, no concerns.</p> <p>R3's progress notes dated November, 16, 2023 indicated R3 had a change in status including slurred speech and the facility arranged for transport to the hospital.</p> <p>R3's hospital record dated November 16, 2023 indicated R3 arrived at the hospital covered in dried feces in her skin folds from her buttocks across her thighs and down to her knees.</p> <p>R3's progress notes dated November 17, 2023 indicated notification to check R3's skin for new sores but R3 was not present but rather in the hospital.</p> <p>A review of R3's 90-day nursing assessment dated November 20, 2022, at 9:14 a.m., was completed by RN-J. The document indicated "unknown due to new admission" to the question</p>	02310			

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02310	<p>Continued From page 7</p> <p>"has the resident had any skin alteration in the last 90 days". The same document did not include identification of skin concerns. For pulmonary, the document indicated breath sounds left posterior, right anterior, and right posterior were clear when R3.</p> <p>R3's hospital records indicated R3 was not at the facility but rather the hospital at the time of the assessment dated November 20, 2023.</p> <p>R3's progress notes dated November 21, 2023, indicated the facility contacted the hospital for an update on R3. The note indicated the resident would not return to the facility but rather would go to a skilled nursing facility (SNF)</p> <p>R3's hospital record indicated R3 admitted to from November 16, 2022, through November 23, 2022 for a skin infection of the abdominal wall and discharged to a SNF afterwards.</p> <p>During an interview on February 13, 2023, at 11:01 a.m., an emergency medical technician (EMT)-A stated she helped transfer R3 to the hospital. She noticed upon entering R3's apartment noticed R3's room had a strong urine smell. EMT-A stated the nursing staff at the hospital cleaned R3's skin and EMT-A stated her entire genital and buttocks were reddened with open areas. EMT-A stated it looked like the rash had developed over time and not just over the last 24-hours.</p> <p>During an interview on February 17, 2023, at 6:54 p.m., the unlicensed personnel (ULP)-E stated she did not know how often R3 had a shower. ULP-E stated she knew R3 had a redness under her abdomen and treated with nystatin before. ULP-E stated she did not know anything about</p>	02310			



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02310	<p>Continued From page 8</p> <p>the recent rash R3 but did confirm R3 did not have the rash when she admitted.</p> <p>During an interview on February 17, 2023, at 7:29 p.m., the unlicensed personnel (ULP)-F stated she was the bath aid and was supposed to give R3 a whirlpool bath once a week. ULP-F stated R3 refused to take a bath every time she was asked. ULP-F stated she notified the nurse about R3's refusals and charted it in R3's flow sheets. ULP-F also said once R3 refused, she would not come back to ask R3 again because she had so many bath schedules she needed to get done in a day.</p> <p>During an interview on February 17, 2023, at 8:39 p.m., the unlicensed personnel (ULP)-D stated she worked mostly night shift and did not provide any peri care for R3. ULP-D worked on the day R3 was sent to the hospital. R3 could not stand or walk on that day. ULP-D confirmed she knew the bath aid notified the administrator and the nurse about R3's redness in her fold a few times, but they did not do anything for R3.</p> <p>During an interview on February 21, 2023, at 2:47 p.m., the unlicensed personnel (ULP)-H stated she did not know R3 had any skin concern or redness. She said the nurse never did the skin assessment for R3.</p> <p>During an interview on February 21, 2023, at 4:11 p.m., a family member (FM)-C stated R3 needed assistance with taking a bath, and the staff was supposed to bathe her at least once a week. FM-C confirmed R3's room smelled very badly of urine . The staff was supposed to do the laundry and what she found in R3's laundry was "disgusting". FM-C said it took the emergency staff three hours to clean up R3. R3 would</p>	02310			

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STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:  <b>21518</b>	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING: _____  B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED  <b>C</b> <b>02/06/2023</b>
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER  <b>HARMONY PLACE</b>			STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE <b>455 MAIN AVENUE NORTH</b> <b>HARMONY, MN 55939</b>		
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02310	<p>Continued From page 9</p> <p>scream in pain if anyone accidentally touched the reddened areas.</p> <p>During an interview on February 21, 2023, at 4:37 p.m., family member (FM)-B stated she called and talked to R3. She felt something was not right, so she called an ambulance to take R3 to the hospital. R3 was supposed to have a whirlpool bath once a week and she believed the staff did not do it. FM-B stated she went to R3's room 2 days after R3 was admitted to the hospital and it smelled so bad. FM-B took R3's clothes to wash and maggots fell out from the hamper. FM-B said R3's husband had memory impairment and he did not know anything happened with his wife. FM-B confirmed she was the one who asked the staff to call 911 for R3.</p> <p>During an interview on February 23, 2023, at 1:04 p.m., assisted living director in residence (ALDIR) stated staff notified her about R3's refusal of bathing. She asked them to document it and re-approached her again about it. She did not know anything about R3's redness in her abdomen.</p> <p>During an interview on February 23, 2023, at 2:27 p.m., registered nurse (RN)-I stated she noticed R3 had redness on her fold and got the order for nystatin on August 12, 2022, for 14 days. RN-I confirmed she did R3 90 days assessment on August 15 and did not make any note about her skin. She assumed R3's skin issue had been resolved by that time.</p> <p>During an interview on February 27, 2023, at 3:43 p.m., the registered nurse (RN)-J stated staff notified her about R3's redness a few days before R3 was sent to the hospital. RN-J said she worked with multiple facilities, so she did not have</p>	02310			



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02310	Continued From page 10  a chance to assess R3 before she left. RN-J confirmed she knew about R3's refusal of the shower. She said she talked to R3's husband and he told her to not worry about it. RN-J stated R3's care plan indicated R3 was independent with her shower and that her husband was supposed to help her, so she just left it to him. RN-J confirmed she did not see R3 in the hospital from November 16 to November 23, 2022. She said she was not sure why she did a 90-day assessment for R3 when R3 was in the hospital. RN-J said the assessment was not appropriate.  The licensee policy titled Assessment, Reviews and Monitoring, dated August 1, 2021, a reassessment would include skin conditions and the service plan would be updated as necessary based on resident needs.  TIME PERIOD FOR CORRECTION: Seven (7) days	02310			
02360	144G.91 Subd. 8 Freedom from maltreatment  Residents have the right to be free from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse; neglect; financial exploitation; and all forms of maltreatment covered under the Vulnerable Adults Act.  This MN Requirement is not met as evidenced by: The facility failed to ensure R3 was free from maltreatment.  Findings include:  The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) issued a determination maltreatment occurred, and an individual staff person was responsible for	02360	No Plan of Correction (PoC) required. Please refer to the public maltreatment report (report sent separately) for details of this tag.		

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02360	Continued From page 11  the maltreatment, in connection with incidents which occurred at the facility.	02360			