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## **NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **CARSON CITY ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY FINED \$1,000 for FOOD SAFETY VIOLATIONS**

*Carson City* – The Nevada State Health Division's Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance has fined a Carson City assisted living facility \$1,000 after a March survey found numerous problems with food storage and preparation as well as serving menu items that were not being kept at proper temperatures. The Sierra Place Retirement Community, 1111 W. College Parkway, did not contest the penalty.

The multiple violations of food safety requirements coincided with a significant increase in incidents of gastrointestinal illness among residents. Surveyors identified 17 cases of illness from March 1, 2009 through March 18, 2009, the date of the inspection of the facility, which is licensed to care for 76 elderly and disabled clients.

As a result of the survey, the facility's food establishment permit was suspended on March 18. It was reinstated following a new inspection on March 20 that showed full compliance with the requirements in the inspection report. During the suspension, residents were served food brought in from outside sources. Training was provided to the facility's food service workers on the identified food storage and preparation issues. The incidents of gastrointestinal illness ended when the food establishment permit was suspended.

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 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, ambulatory 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. More information about the Bureau may be found at [health.nv.gov](http://health.nv.gov).

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