



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 1301 • Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – Nelson J. Sabatini, Secretary

Office of Food Protection and Consumer Health Services

Alan L. Taylor, R.S., Director

June 5, 2003

CERTIFIED MAIL-RESTRICTED DELIVERY
7099 3220 0003 8093 2096

Mr. Lewis H. Richardson, Jr.
Douglas Memorial Community Church
6317 Park Heights Ave., #303
Baltimore, MD 21215

RE: **YOUTH CAMP CERTIFICATE DENIAL** for
Camp Farthest Out
5915 Farthest Out Drive
Sykesville, MD 21784

Dear Mr. Richardson:

Pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.16.06.05D(2), this Office denies your annual certificate to operate a youth camp based on your current application. This denial is necessary since outstanding violations of COMAR 10.16.06 at the above-referenced camp remain uncorrected.

An inspection of your camp conducted on July 31, 2002, revealed that the camp was in violation of COMAR 10.16.06, Certification for Youth Camps. A copy of the inspection report is enclosed and the violations are cited below:

- The camp operator did not ensure that the camp is in compliance with all fire and safety code requirements, including COMAR 12.03.01, is approved by the State fire authority, and buildings within the camp are maintained in accordance with state and local fire and safety codes, as required by COMAR 10.16.06.19A and B. *This is a repeat violation; during the 2001 camp inspection the camp operator did not have documentation that the facility was inspected and approved annually by the State Fire Marshal's Office.*
- The operator did not ensure that the minimum number of staff persons were supervising the campers during swimming, violating COMAR 10.16.06.20. *This is a repeat violation; during the 2001 camp inspection the required minimum staff were not on duty at the swimming activity.* Also, the swimming safety procedures revised and submitted in December 2002 lack sufficient detail to ensure compliance with COMAR 10.16.06.20. The maximum number of swimmers allowed at the pool at one time is not defined and the camp director (or director's designee) must be present during swim activities. More detail on the safety system to account for all campers is required. In your swimmer qualification process, please describe how the staff identifies swimmers that have been assigned to different areas according to swimming ability.

410-767-8440 • Fax 410-333-8931

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You were notified of these violations by inspection report hand delivered to you on the above date, and you were directed to correct the violations within a specified time period. In addition, this Office made numerous attempts to resolve the compliance issues, including meeting with Camp Farthest Out Board members to discuss the numerous violations and repeat violations noted on the inspection reports. To date, we have not received compliance documentation verifying that the above violations are corrected.

In addition, since the inspection additional violations have come to the attention of this Office:

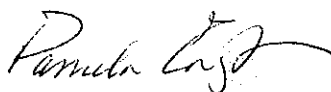
- The youth camp operator did not file before December 31, 2002 an annual report with the Youth Camp Safety Advisory council, violating COMAR 10.16.06.04. You must complete and submit the enclosed 2002 Annual Report, and
- The youth camp operator did not ensure that child abuse allegations or incidents are reported as prescribed in Family Law Article, §§5-704 and 5-705, Annotated Code of Maryland, violating COMAR 10.16.06.09.

Pursuant to COMAR 10.16.06.05A(2), you may not operate your youth camp this year or any succeeding calendar year until you have obtained a youth camp certificate from this Office. If you operate a youth camp without a certificate, this Office will initiate legal action to close your facility.

In accordance with Md. Code Ann., Health-General §14-409 and the Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Government Title 10, Subtitle 2, you have the opportunity for a hearing before the Department to appeal this decision. If you wish to schedule a hearing, you must submit a written request within 10 days of receipt of this letter. Please send the request to my attention at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 6 St. Paul Street-Suite 1301, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-1608. A hearing will be scheduled with the Office of Administrative Hearings, 11101 Gilroy Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031. You will be advised of the time and place to appear. Unless a hearing is requested, the intended agency action will become final and will thus be binding on all parties.

If you have questions on this matter, please call Linda Rudie or me at (410) 767-8417.

Sincerely,



Pamela Engle, R.S., Acting Chief
Division of Community Services

Enclosures

cc: John Nugent, Esquire
Licenses and Permits
Kirk Engle, R.S.
Linda Rudie, R.S.
Alan Taylor, R.S.
File

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE
OFFICE OF FOOD PROTECTION & CONSUMER HEALTH SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

6 St. Paul Street, Suite 1301
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-1608
Fax (410) 333-8926

DATE: May 1, 2003

PAGES: 1

KIRK ENGLE
Phone (410) 767-8424

FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

TO: Becky Gearhart

RE: Camp Farthest Out

Becky, per our phone conversation, I am sending you a formal request asking that you please provide this Office with any information contained in your files relevant to the investigation of alleged child abuse/neglect that occurred during the summer of 2002 at Camp Farthest Out, located at 5915 Farthest Out Drive in Sykesville.

As the State agency that certifies youth camps in Maryland, we feel this information is necessary to enable us to make an informed decision regarding future certification of Camp Farthest Out. As it currently stands, this camp is not certified and is not approved to operate in 2003. Once the information contained in your files is received and reviewed, a final decision will be made regarding their 2003 application for certification as a youth camp.

As I stated in our phone conversation, I will be glad to pick up the information as soon as you inform me it is available. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information or have any questions. I can be reached at 410-767-8424 or 443-690-3102. My address is:

Division of Community Services
6 St. Paul Street, Suite 1301
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-767-8424
kengle@dhmh.state.md.us

Thank you for all of your help.