



News

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News Release

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Contact

Carol Sisco (801) 538-3991

State Revokes Group Home License

State licensing officials are revoking the license of Maximum Life Skills Academy in Cedar City where two teens allegedly beat their counselor with a baseball bat March 8. The counselor, Anson Arnett, died the following day.

“Results of a preliminary investigation show clear rule violations including having only one employee on duty the night of the beating,” Licensing Director Ken Stettler said. “State rules require two employees at all times.”

A written revocation announcement - hand-delivered to Maximum Life Skills March 12 - is effective March 26. If the facility appeals by then, they can continue limited operations until an administrative hearing is conducted.

“So far we’ve found three rule violations,” Stettler said. “However, others may be added after the Cedar City Police Department releases the home’s files and we can complete our investigation.”

Violations include:

- Only one employee was on duty the night the incident occurred and again the following day. Two are required.
- The group home failed to obtain criminal background clearances for Anson Arnett, Faa Taupau, Austin Beardall and Mona Kula before giving them direct access to children. Director Adam Ahquin’s background screening expired last September. It wasn’t renewed.
- Rules require facilities to comply with National Interstate Compact Laws. Maximum Life Skills failed to obtain such an agreement with Delaware before accepting Jesse Simmons.

Programs must cease operations after their licenses are revoked. During the appeal process they can continue limited operations but may not accept new clients.

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