

Additional Information Regarding the Variance Application for 729 Diving Hawk Trl

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Background Information:

The client residing in this home is a young woman with a mild intellectual disability and numerous mental health diagnoses who is transitioning to live in her own home in the community with residential support from the agency Crawford Home Health. This woman has spent significant portions of her life in institutional settings.

She is very intelligent and engaging. She is also quite determined at times. She has experienced a great deal of trauma in her life, which has affected her ability to regulate her emotions and develop positive relationships with others.

This woman demonstrates many concerning and potentially dangerous behaviors. She is a flight risk. She can be very opportunistic and looks for times to run away from support staff. One instance resulted in her being hit by a car on a highway, which was her intention. This resulted in a traumatic brain injury. She could easily injure herself or be the victim of violence were she to enter the community unattended.

Request and Safeguards:

This woman resides in the home with staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week, when not attending school. She always has two staff with her during the day and one staff overnight. Regardless of this level of support, she has successfully run away. Therefore, her support team would like to equip her home with a magnetic locking system on the three exterior doors. One window in her bedroom will also be equipped with a casing that includes a magnetic lock. Whenever she is home, these locks will be engaged. Staff are required to always be in the residence with her. They may not ever leave the premises with her alone inside while the locks are engaged. The magnetic locks are all hard wired to the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors within the home. The system requires an electrical current to stay engaged; therefore, if there is a power outage or if the electrical current is disrupted by the smoke or carbon monoxide detector going off, the locks automatically disengage. The locks are controlled by a key fob, like those for car doors. One button engages and the other disengages. There are four fobs for the system. Each staff person will carry one, one will be placed in a lock box (Knox Box for Fire/EMS) on the exterior of the house, and the fourth will be kept by residential agency supervisors.

Staff will be thoroughly trained on the system, and the system is checked annually for proper functioning. All batteries in fobs will be replaced annually. The system will be professionally installed by J&K Security Systems, who have a long history of installing similar systems in commercial and group home settings. The equipment will be removed when she no longer resides in this location. While other support strategies have been considered, this is the safest and least restrictive method given her unique circumstances.