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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Acts to Permanently Remove Children from Facility Where 7-Year-Old Died

Action taken following the investigation of the death of Ja'Ceon Terry and other allegations at Uspiritus-Brooklawn's campus, Louisville

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 22, 2022) – Today, the state announced its intent to permanently remove children from at Uspiritus-Brooklawn, a Jefferson County psychiatric residential treatment facility, following an investigation into the death of Ja'Ceon Terry, age seven, who died on July 17 at the facility.

A coroner's report identified the cause of death as positional asphyxia. The cabinet immediately ceased placing children and youth in psychiatric residential care at Brooklawn pending results of the investigation. Today, after a thorough investigation by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), the Office of Inspector General and Department for Community Based Services took action.

Today, Uspiritus-Brooklawn Academy, 3115 Brooklawn Campus Drive; Uspiritus-Brooklawn-Horizons, 2104 David Graves Drive; and Uspiritus-Brooklawn Pilots, 2108 David Graves Drive, was notified of the investigative findings. The statement of deficiency includes failure of direct-care staff to supervise residents and know their whereabouts at all times; recording all incidents or accidents that present a direct or immediate threat to the health, safety or security of any resident or staff member; and complying with a regulation which states that a restraint or seclusion shall not result in harm or injury to the resident and shall be used only to ensure the safety of the resident or others during an emergency safety situation.

[Uspiritus-Brooklawn Academy notice of revocation](#)

[Uspiritus-Brooklawn Horizons notice of revocation](#)

[Uspiritus-Brooklawn Pilots notice of revocation](#)

“What took place at Brooklawn is a tragedy,” said CHFS Secretary Eric Friedlander. “Brooklawn claims to provide a continuum of care that helps vulnerable individuals find hope, make positive changes in their lives and realize their potential. Tragically, Ja’Ceon Terry was never able to realize his potential. The cabinet is charged with the safety and well-being of vulnerable Kentuckians, especially children, and that’s why we have taken steps to revoke Brooklawn’s license.”

No children or youth have been placed in the psychiatric or child caring residential facilities at Brooklawn since Ja’Ceon Terry passed.

“Today’s action should give clear warning that the cabinet will aggressively investigate and take action when Kentuckians in its care are harmed or exploited,” Friedlander said. “This outcome is necessary, but nothing we do will bring back Ja’Ceon Terry.”

The licensees have the option to appeal the actions of the cabinet.

The cabinet is investigating additional allegations.

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